The green issues and foreign policy: an analysis of Indonesian foreign ministry’s selected tweets

Ali Maksum\textsuperscript{1}, Ahmad Sahide\textsuperscript{2}, Laode Muhamad Fathun\textsuperscript{3}, Hilman Mahmud Akmal Ma’arif\textsuperscript{4}, and Sitti Zarina Alimuddin\textsuperscript{5}

\textsuperscript{1}International Relations Department, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183
\textsuperscript{2}International Relations (Master Program), Postgraduate Studies, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183
\textsuperscript{3}International Relations Department, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta, Depok, West Java, Indonesia, 12450
\textsuperscript{4}International Relations (Master Program), Postgraduate Studies, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183
\textsuperscript{5}International Relations (Master Program), Postgraduate Studies, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 55183; Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Jl. UMS, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 88400.

Abstract. A green issue is relatively new for Indonesian policymakers. All countries paid close attention to this issue in the 1960s, when people were facing some environmental crises. But international political scholars started paying more attention to green issues in the 1990s, after the Cold War ended and traditional security issues became less important. Non-traditional security problems, like the environmental crisis, are becoming the focus of foreign policy issues in countries like Indonesia. Social media is a good place to investigate green issues, especially those that have to do with Indonesian foreign policy. This article tries to explore what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said on Twitter about green issues that have not been studied as much. This article tries to analyze some tweets about green issues in Indonesian foreign policy using NVivo content analysis. Thus, this article argues that green issues are still not talked about much on Twitter. The fact that the sentiment analysis is still neutral shows that the issue is not a big deal in the discussion. This research offers a fresh perspective on green issues inside the MOFA Twitter account and has contributed to the body of knowledge in this field of study.

1 Introduction

Traditionally, realist-dominated international security studies have focused on military threats to the state. However, post-Cold War international political shifts have altered the international security scene, which is no longer centred on traditional, militarised security. Non-traditional security topics such as the environment, human security, societal security, and others, on the other hand, are rapidly dominating international security research [1]. Following the end of the Cold War, green challenges relating to environmental security have become critical issues. This prompts many governments to grow increasingly concerned about how to save the earth. Of course, the state cannot solve these green challenges alone, such as environmental degradation, climate change, deforestation, and so on. It necessitates

\textsuperscript{1} Corresponding author: ali.maksum@fisipol.umy.ac.id
international cooperation with other countries, which must then be formalised in foreign policy [2].

Previous research demonstrates that green issues pique the interest of scholars. According to a Scopus search, green issues are more dominated when associated with foreign policy by topics such as energy utilisation, economics, investments, energy policy, renewable energies, renewable energy resources, public policy, sustainable development, international trade, planning, commerce, fossil fuels, and energy. Few have investigated green concerns in the context of social media, particularly the foreign ministry’s Twitter account.

![Network visualization of green issue and Indonesian foreign policy](image)

**Fig. 1:** Network visualization of green issue and Indonesian foreign policy

This research is significant because it provides a fresh viewpoint on the green issues discussion based on a selected tweet from Indonesia's foreign minister Retno Marsudi's Twitter account, @Menlu_RI. This research is expected to contribute to the enrichment of knowledge about environmental challenges, particularly through the use of media social analysis as an alternative research strategy.

**Literature Review**

*Green Issues in International Relations*

Before delving into green issues through a green politics lens, this approach begins with two concepts: green thinking and green thought. Thinking green or being environmentally conscious signifies that the world is facing major environmental challenges. The environment is critical because various global phenomena, such as the continuous depletion of natural resources, global warming, environmental deterioration, and pollution, all constitute a threat to the human race's living conditions. Then academics in international relations, particularly those studying international politics, should pay attention to this issue. Green Thought contends that the human-nature interaction largely explains the current environmental problem and that the many stages of this relationship must be radically reconstructed if the earth and a future are to be secure. Green Thought adherents have very precise knowledge of the current environmental crisis's peculiarities. The argument is that the world is made up of interrelated ecosystems, and it is impossible to draw a clear line between people and other living things. In current theory, Green Thought provides a holistic approach that emphasises the strong relationship between human life and the global economy [3].
Green issues are policy issues that result from environmental concerns. Economic activity, particularly economic growth, causes a variety of environmental difficulties. This includes climate change as a result of the excessive use of fossil fuels. Deforestation, erosion, extinction of plant and animal species, and biodiversity loss, as well as health issues caused by air and water pollution, radiation, and excessive fertiliser and pesticide use [4]. International environmental policy is especially relevant in this age of increasing globalisation since many environmental issues transcend national borders and can only be solved via international cooperation [5]. Climate protection, sustainable energy policy, biodiversity preservation, and the preservation of forests, oceans, and soil are only a few of the topics covered by international environmental policy. Desertification, environmentally friendly waste management, and safeguarding against dangerous compounds are further linked themes. To ensure that environmental protection is taken into account in other policy areas, such as cooperation with developing nations, the majority of these challenges call for an overall plan [6].

In response to this phenomenon, green politics theory is a concrete and intriguing approach that can be utilised as a tool in investigating, developing environmental programmes, and achieving environmental sustainability [7]. Political products based on green politics will, of course, drive us to efforts to conserve and improve the environment, as well as optimize environmental use based on eco-friendly sustainable development. The environment becomes a resource that provides materials to suit requirements in green politics. These resources are grouped at least into three categories: natural resources, economic resources, and political resources. The environment, as a natural resource, provides raw materials to support the basic demands of human life and/or ensure its survival. The environment, as an economic resource, can be a driving factor for the economy, both as a source of raw materials or economic commodities and as a source of places to conduct economic activities [8].

Meanwhile, the environment, as a political resource, can affect and play a part in political processes such as the process of shifting power, the process of making and implementing decisions, and the process of supervising decisions that have been made. Through this green political lens, at least four roles of the Indonesian government can be perceived. First, the regulatory role governs natural resource management methods, including the prerequisites for natural resource extraction. The second function is the allocative function. This role allocates a variety of material and non-material advantages for the sake of environmental sustainability. The third function is the distribution function. In this country, the government provides a variety of material and non-material support in the interests of environmental sustainability and addressing people's needs. Finally, there is the extractive function, which consists of political decisions that grant the government the capacity to monopolise the absorption of natural resources for the benefit of environmental sustainability and addressing community requirements [9].

2 Methodology

This is a qualitative descriptive study with content analysis. This article studies the Indonesian minister of foreign affairs’ Twitter account, @Menlu_RI, in particular, to unpack green issues related to Indonesian foreign policy. This article would examine a selected tweet from @Menlu_RI that discussed green issues using a computer-assisted qualitative data analysis system (CAQDAS) called NVivo. The software includes auto-coding capabilities for generating data such as word frequency, text search query, and so on. Thus, on May 25, 2023, at 10:27 Western Indonesia Time (GMT+7), NVivo was used for data mining via the Twitter Applications Programming Interface (API). Given that NVivo includes powerful capabilities, namely NCapture, it can securely mine and store Twitter data. NVivo performs
auto-coding processes such as encoding, classifying, and displaying data after gathering the Twitter dataset. The stages are depicted in the image below.

Fig. 2. Research procedure using Nvivo

3 Results and Discussion

In this section, the data presentation related to the analysis of selected tweets of Indonesia’s minister of foreign affairs is as follows:

3.1 NVivo-assisted analysis

Text search query, resulting in an interesting finding. During the analysis, it can assess the scope of the green issues themselves by looking at the Results Preview output from the processed NVivo 12 Plus application with the green keyword as the centre of the investigation. Starting with the economy, which discusses boosting economic recovery through various government measures. Then there's development cooperation and energy transition cooperation, which talk about money and investments. It also offers a discussion of circular economic growth.

Fig. 3. Text search query of “green” using NVivo
The government works to achieve its goals by taking advantage of the G20 Presidency Big Event, which offers numerous nations the chance to discuss a variety of topics, including green topics and the effects that influence them. The COVID-19 outbreak had an impact on the opportunities and likelihood of economic recovery, which the forum also examined.

Meanwhile, the main words in the selected tweet of @Menlu_RI are “https” and “green” in terms of word frequency. This shows at least two things. First, @Menlu_RI routinely shares a webpage with additional information about green issues with the public. At the same time, the “green” phrase that dominated the tweet was seen as the minister of foreign affairs' consistency in disseminating information on green topics on her Twitter account. Other buzzwords, such as energy, activity, and others, appear to be overlooked in the minister's tweet debate.

Looking at the tree map analysis of the NVivo 12 Plus application, we can see how the Minister of Foreign Affairs Twitter makes every effort to reflect green issues and requests for genuine action and concrete activity, particularly in energy management initiatives. It also makes a significant contribution to domestic and international environmental issues, particularly ASEAN, which is a grouping of various Indonesian neighbouring countries.
More than 30 million Indonesians rely on the vast tropical forests of Indonesia for a living. In the provinces of West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, and Aceh, there is a need to strengthen the sustainability of efforts that reduce risks to forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and greenhouse gas emissions from unsustainable land use. Carbon-rich peatlands and biodiverse tropical forests in these provinces provide habitat for orangutans, rhinos, elephants, and tigers. USAID collaborates closely with the Indonesian government, communities, civil society organisations, and private companies to maximise the economic and social benefits of better natural resource management practices. USAID knowledge, training, facilitation, and finance help Indonesia reconcile biodiversity protection and sustainable land use with equitable economic development and livelihoods [10, 11].

3.2 Progressive Energy

While energy is largely seen as essential to long-term and inclusive economic growth, Indonesia is struggling to achieve a balance between energy security, fairness, and sustainability. With an annual growth rate of roughly 5% in energy demand, Indonesia faces a double challenge in meeting this rising demand while also meeting its emission reduction targets. To address these difficulties, the Indonesian government developed a national energy policy that prioritises strengthening energy security and diversifying the energy mix, with the goal of raising the contribution of new and renewable energy to 23% by 2025. USAID supports the reform of Indonesia's energy industry towards a more sustainable, fair, and dependable system with significant private sector engagement. USAID is collaborating with the Indonesian government to equalise investment in the energy sector, particularly to accelerate the cost-effective adoption of renewable energy to satisfy Indonesia's growing energy demand and to create long-term solutions to improve energy access. USAID collaborates with national and local governments, state utility companies, the private sector, and the financial sector to promote clean and advanced energy adoption, improve the performance of energy utilities, promote transparent and best-value procurement, and strengthen institutional frameworks and capacities to support energy transformation [10, 11].

3.3 Economic growth

Indonesia is the world's leading producer of high-value products such as rubber, coffee, cocoa, and spices such as vanilla. Thousands of farmers and associated companies are empowered by USAID's agro and social forestry programmes to boost agricultural production, harvesting, and processing while also connecting farmers to global markets and enterprises. The engagement of USAID with local communities assists farmers in pursuing more profitable and sustainable incomes while also enhancing self-reliance and conservation at the grassroots level [10]. Indonesia has been actively pursuing sustainable economic growth and the adoption of a green economy, albeit with room for improvement that may have implications for the welfare of its population [12, 13].

3.4 Waste Issue

According to USAID, Indonesia contributes 9% of plastic garbage to the oceans each year, amounting to 620,000 metric tons. USAID encourages Indonesia to improve solid waste management and recycling systems in order to reduce land-based sources of marine plastic. Poor solid waste management endangers human health and the ecosystem by polluting land, air, and water, increasing the global ocean pollution catastrophe. Improper waste management, particularly the open burning of solid trash, is now a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other health risks. To minimise land-based sources of marine plastic, USAID is collaborating with national and local government partners to improve the enabling environment and create capacity for trash collection and management planning,
budgeting, and implementation. In addition, USAID collaborates and coordinates with private-sector partners to promote circular economy models and boost efficiency in the recycled plastics value chain. USAID works with local communities to improve behaviour and encourage plastic reduction, reuse, and recycling in order to sustain long-term benefits [10, 14, 15].

4 Conclusions

The preceding analysis reveals that the ecological issue has become one of the Foreign Ministry of Indonesia's concerns. Through the minister's Twitter account, @Menlu_RI, this investigation uncovered keywords related to green issues provided on another platform, namely the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at https://www.kemlu.go.id/portal/id. Meanwhile, crucial information such as energy, the economy, and other ecological issues is left out of the conversation. The findings are crucial for policymakers, particularly in increasing public awareness of environmental issues through social media, particularly Twitter. Simultaneously, webpage information should be upgraded to provide more thorough information. Although the government may not prioritise digital information transmission, it is critical for society, which requires meaningful information in the age of social media and openness.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta for funding this project.

References

[3]. F. Rani, Jurnal Transnasional 4, 870 (2013)
[10]. USAID, LESTARI: Lessons Learned Technical Brief Village-Based Forest Management (USAID LESTARI, Jakarta, 2019)
[15]. A., P. N. Paksi, LOGISTA, Jurnal Ilmiah Pengabadian Kepada Masyarakat 4, 104 (2020)