

Paradiplomacy in the border: Overcoming forest fire in West Kalimantan – Sarawak border through the Sosek Malindo cooperation



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Abstract This paper analyses the policies of the West Kalimantan Provincial Government in overcoming forest fires through the Indonesia-Malaysia Socio-Economic Cooperation (Sosek Malindo) on the West Kalimantan-Sarawak border in 2019-2023. Forest fires are a regional issue but have transboundary impacts on neighboring countries. To overcome this, the West Kalimantan provincial government is implementing several cooperation strategies with the state of Sarawak to address forest fires on the border. The theory used is the concept of paradiplomacy and border management. This is a literature study with qualitative descriptive analysis methods and secondary data. With regard to cooperation, Sosek Malindo used forest fire prevention programs in three ways: socialization, regulation, and collaboration. Regarding its structural organization, Sosek Malindo still has some obstacles in managing border areas. Moreover, the local government must determine its cooperation policy to prove that paradiplomacy can be implemented in managing a state border area. This article assists other researchers in researching forest fire management on the West Kalimantan-Sarawak border through Sosek Malindo cooperation. Additionally, it suggests a combination of paradiplomacy concepts for managing border areas.

Keywords: Sosek Malindo, forest fire, border, paradiplomacy, Indonesia, Malaysia

1. Introduction

West Kalimantan has a forest area of 8,389,601 hectares (ha) consisting of 3,931,919 ha of cultivated forest and 4,457,682 ha of protected forest (Kalbar, 2019). With total forests in all provinces in Kalimantan, Kalimantan Island has the 2nd most extensive forest in Indonesia. In the table below, the author shows that the percentage of protected forest area in West Kalimantan is greater than that of cultural forests, which is 53% versus 47%, respectively. Previously, forests in Kalimantan experienced peak deforestation in 2016, and the expansion of industrial plantations directly contributed to forest loss (Gaveau et al., 2019). The percentage of forest usage in West Kalimantan will be shown below (Figure 1).

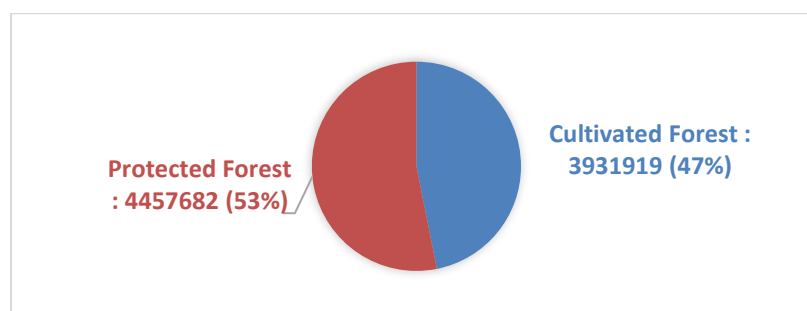


Figure 1 Forest Uses Percentage.
Source: Kalbar (2019)

Forests in West Kalimantan often experience massive deforestation caused by forest and land fires; this seasonal disaster occurs in tropical climate regions such as Southeast Asia (Latifah et al., 2019). As a result, these forest fires cause haze disasters in Southeast Asia; this haze is transboundary and will worsen when the climate becomes extreme (Suhaili, 2022). Forest fires can be caused by climatic conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and rainfall, and human activities in forest/plantation/land management, such as negligence in land conversion, agriculture, and illegal cultivation. Another factor that causes the increasing prevalence of forest and land fires is the use of energy sources such as wood, remaining logging, coal deposits, and peat (Kalbar, 2016). The figure below (Figure 2) shows the number of forest fires in West Kalimantan Province between 2018 and 2023.



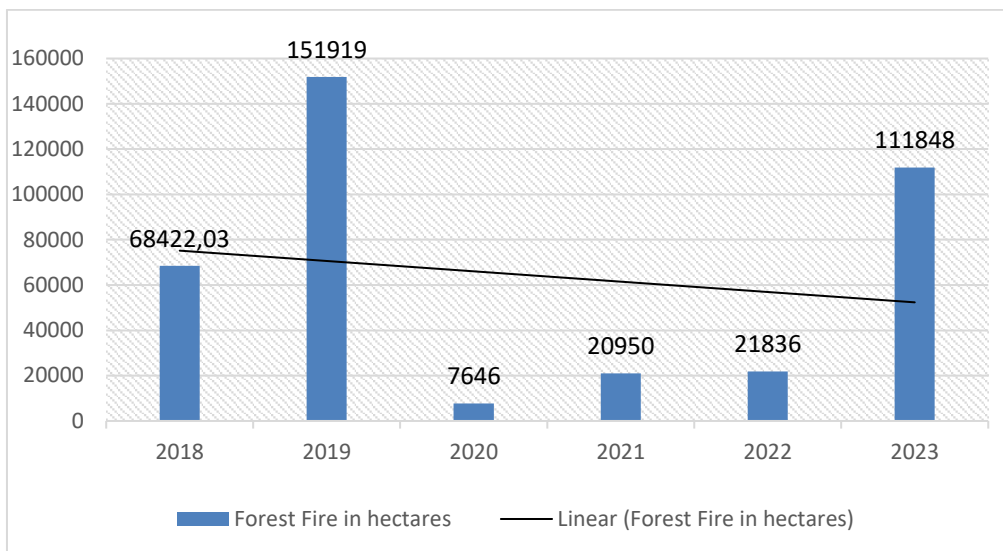


Figure 2 Forest fires in West Kalimantan.
 Source: Menlhk (2023a)

The table shows that in the last five years, there have been forest fires in West Kalimantan, with a total area of 382,621.03 ha, and the largest occurred in 2019, with 151,919 ha. Several regions in West Kalimantan are directly adjacent to Sarawak and are also affected by forest fires; the average amount of forest fires in West Kalimantan, which is adjacent to Sarawak in 2023 is 27.180,87 ha. These areas include Bengkayang 2,777.97 ha, Kapuas Hulu 2,188.97 ha, Sambas 8,369.71 ha, Sintang 6,359.80 ha, and Sanggau 7,490.48 ha (Menlhk, 2023b). The trend of forest fires, as shown in the table above, will decrease after 2019 but will increase rapidly by 2023.

This forest management approach is undoubtedly challenging, as stated by the West Kalimantan Regional Secretary on 3/10/2022. Harisson revealed that in addition to the benefits of forests, the government should also focus on environmental development and forestry. Among others, it contains the rate of degradation and deforestation that continues to occur and prevents forest and land fires throughout the year. In addition, it also rehabilitates forests and critical lands and improves the economies of communities around forests (Muharrami, 2022). The above discussion shows the government's attention to forest rehabilitation and the prevention of deforestation, which are among the causes of forest fires.

Poor border governance can cause widespread environmental pollution across national borders. In a narrow sense, pollutants cross political boundaries due to natural forces, such as water flow, wind speed, atmospheric movement, and ocean currents. However, these pollutants can also be transferred through human actions, such as highly polluting industries or pollutants in developed countries exported to developing countries when industries are relocated to circumvent labor laws and environmental standards or for taxation minimization (Guo, 2018).

2. Materials and Methods

Researchers used the Scopus website to track, analyze, and visualize the studies to find new ideas. In the literature search, the authors used the keyword "Sosek Malindo" to display all the search results, and two articles were found that used these keywords. Then, the authors changed the keywords to "Social Economy Malaysia Indonesia" with a filter in the field of social sciences and found 86 results. The results were then analyzed in several groups, as shown in the Figure 3 : Document analyses per year.

The first research on the socioeconomic topics of Malaysia and Indonesia recorded on the Scopus website was carried out in 1988, and the research experienced a stable trend until 2008, with an average of 0 to 2 studies per year. In 2009, research on this issue increased dramatically, reaching its highest level in 2021, with nine studies. Next figure (Figure 4) shows the documents group by states.

The figure shows that countries with the most research on this issue occupy the bottom three positions—Canada, China, and the Netherlands—with three research documents each. The top 3 are Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, with the most research conducted in Indonesia and Singapore with 12 studies, followed by Malaysia with 11. The most prominent type of document is Journal Articles, which covers 59.3% of all documents, and these documents consist of subjects in the area of social sciences with other subfields in the form of economics, business/management, environment, engineering, agriculture and so on.

Bibliography and keyword data from 86 results obtained from searches on the Scopus web with the keywords above are then exported in RIS form and entered into the VOSviewer 1.16.18 analysis application. In this study, the VOSviewer



application helps find density, links and occurrences from research data exported as text-based files. This application finds 205 keywords with a minimum occurrence of 1 time, but only keywords related to social science are entered as shows in figure 5.

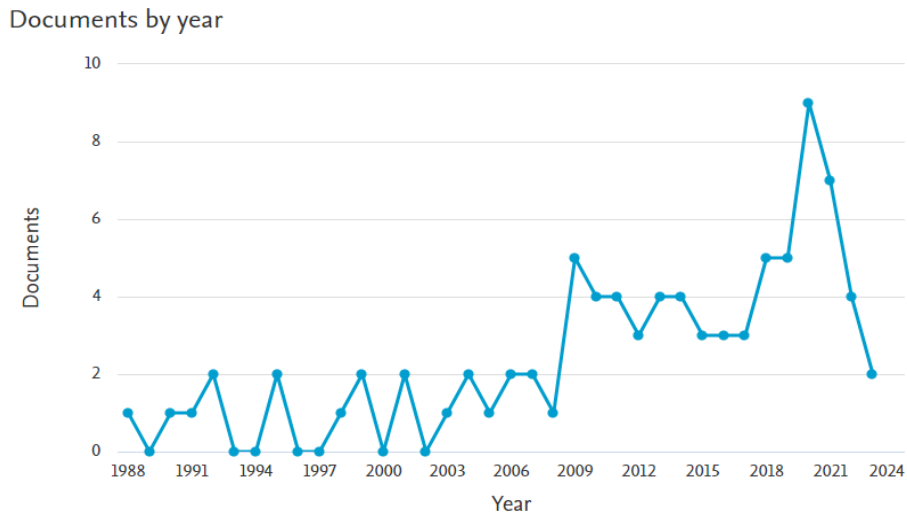


Figure 3 Document analyses per year.

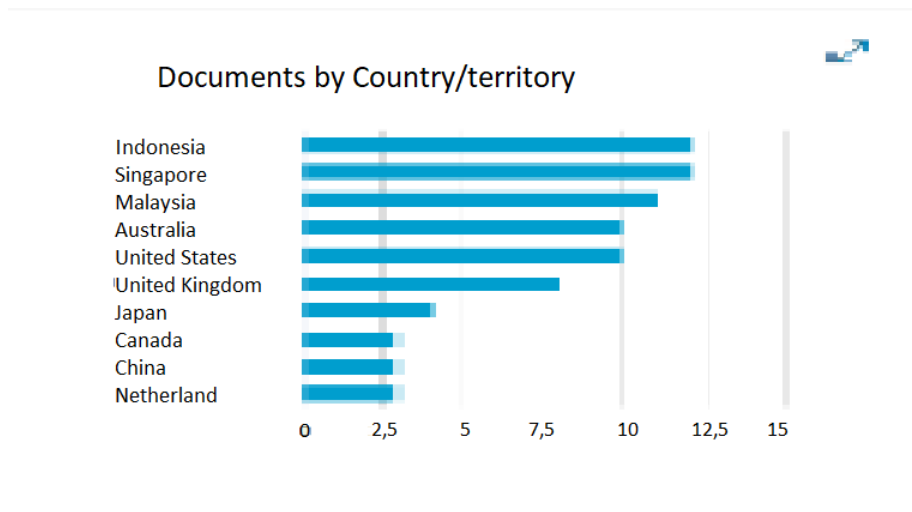


Figure 4 Documents by States.

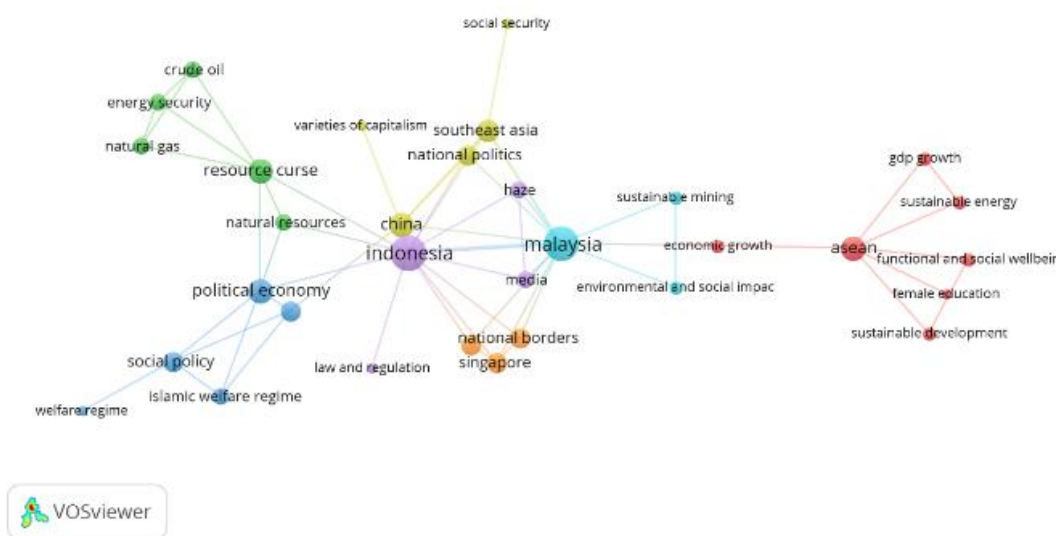


Figure 5 Results of the VOSviewer Analysis.

From this process, 32 keywords were found with seven different clusters, including 1 (red); ASEAN, economic growth, female education, functional and social welfare, GDP growth, sustainable development, and sustainable energy (7 items). 2 (green); crude oil, energy security, natural gas, natural resource, and resource course (5 items). 3 (blue); Islamic welfare regime, political economy, social policy, Southeast Asia, welfare regime (5 items). 4 (yellow); China, National Security, Social Security, Southeast Asia, Varieties of Capitalism (5 items). 5 (purple); Haze, Indonesia, Law and Regulation, Media (4 items). 6 (light blue); Environmental and Social Impact, Malaysia, Sustainable Meaning (3 items). 7 (orange); national borders, Singapore, sovereignty (3 items).

The relationship between dots can be considered a determination of this topic; some dots show relationships marked by many lines with others. It contains the keywords Malaysia and Indonesia as the two most discussed from search results documents on the Scopus web. However, no keywords related to forest fires were found, and no relationships were found between national borders and keywords related to environmental issues. This means that the keywords from the research we examined did not discuss Sosek Malindo Cooperation (Malaysia-Indonesia Socio-Economic Cooperation) in handling forest fire cases, especially on the West Kalimantan-Sarawak border.

2.1. Paradiplomacy in the border

The study of paradiplomacy is a relatively new field in international affairs. This refers to what the "foreign policy capacity" of substate entities, their participation in the international arena regardless of their metropolitan state in pursuit of their own unique global goals. Like diplomacy in general, paradiplomacy objectives also maintain national security and several other purposes, which can be broadly divided into four goals: political, economic, cultural, and ideological (Roy et al., 1991). Additionally, diplomacy is a claim to represent a particular government to the outside world. Jackson (2018) argues that this interpretation emphasizes three main aspects: diplomacy as a process of claiming authority, diplomacy as a relation between one country and another, and diplomacy as political because it involves representation and government (Jackson, 2018).

Paradiplomacy indirectly opposes the state-centered approach because paradiplomacy means that a branch or substate government can interact with other states or substates in international relations (Keohane & Nye, 1974). This concept focuses on the external links of subnational actors, namely, autonomous regions, federated states, nonautonomous provinces, and provincial-level municipal units (Liu & Song, 2020). Paradiplomacy is generally referred to as the involvement of branch units (regions, substates, provinces) of a state in international affairs, such as provinces in Indonesia, substates in Malaysia, autonomous communities in Spain, landers in Germany, and oblasts and republics in Russia (Kuznetsov, 2014). Local governments play an active role in international affairs in different ways; for example, they open trade, education and cultural missions abroad and sign treaties and agreements with foreign countries and nonstate actors. The authors described the scheme of paradiplomacy between West Kalimantan Province and the substate of Sarawak as the illustration in figure 6.

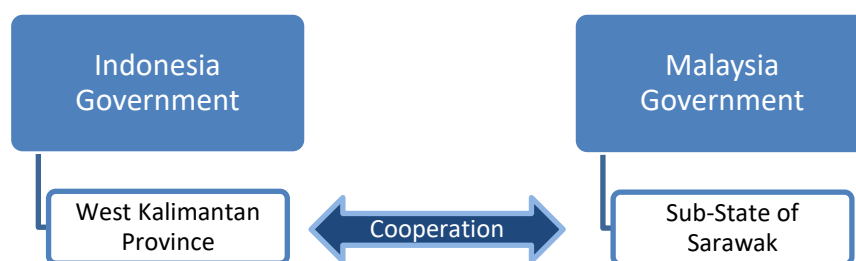


Figure 6 Scheme of West Kalimantan – Sarawak Paradiplomacy.

The region has various political reasons for entering the international scene, especially for those with distinct historical and cultural identities. It can also use diasporas to increase its political influence in other countries and mobilize resources (Keating, 1999). Thus, autonomy tests state sovereignty on two fronts, internally and externally, while providing specific mechanisms to turn these barriers into opportunities for cooperative dispute resolution (Wolff, 2007). Successful noncentral government mobilization has increased the relevance of paradiplomacy on the international stage. The emergence of paradiplomacy can complicate international negotiations and foreign policy formulation in the federal regime (Lequesne & Paquin, 2017).

A cross-border region is a geographical system governed by political rules and divided by two or more artificial boundaries. In this system, all subareas interact, and the elements covering various political, economic, and cultural factors sequentially correlate (Guo, 2012). Borders are a politically sensitive issue, especially when one or the other countries are in the same region. National foreign policy objectives will initially determine the purposes of any boundary management strategy. Borders can even be used as an instrument of foreign policy. The fundamental goals of good boundary management include international peace, local and national security, border prosperity, and effective local governance (Blake, 1998). Blake (1998) mentioned several points that are the main focus of border governance, including boundary line management, access management, security management, cross-border resource management, environmental management, and crisis management (see figure 7) (Blake, 1998).

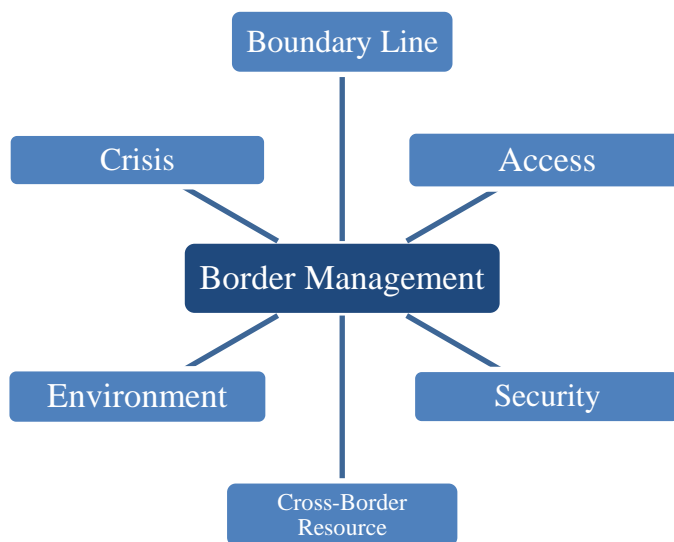


Figure 7 Border Management Focus of Gerald Blake.

Guo (2012), in *Cross-Border Resource Management: Theory and Practice*, provides an example of shared land management in ancient China, which implies that in common land ownership, households have the same responsibilities as a top priority compared to private land or plots of land in their land blocks. China has been developing solutions to solve land problems and 'border' territories for centuries. However, most territorial disputes today become more complicated because political levels and compositions always need to be closer together in border areas at different spatial levels, such as districts, cities, and states/provinces (Chan, 2012).

At first, the term paradiplomacy had not penetrated the geography literature, and the word itself had not appeared in many leading journals (Jackson, 2018). These pioneering projects incorporating geographical analysis into the study of diplomacy have achieved significant progress in expanding the boundaries of existing disciplines and have established exciting new lines of research. However, developing this geographical logic for studying local government diplomacy practices still needs to be revised for political geographers. Further efforts may offer a different spatial reading of paradiplomacy lacking in the dominating international relations literature and, in turn, may contribute to the significant project of political geography that questions the constituent functions and processes of political units, i.e., regions and states (Jackson, 2018, p. 6).

From the concept of paradiplomacy and border management, we can learn how to create a peaceful border area that benefits the country through integration and actual practice by both countries. Paradiplomacy may not be the immediate goal of border management in most cases; the goal is to achieve more than peace by moving toward border integration. Parker & Nissen (2012) give the example of border cooperation of the European Union States, which shows the growing forms of taking and elections regarding power and territory. These activities result in cross-border cooperation between national police authorities in EU member states as they combat drug and car smuggling, human trafficking, and child pornography (Parker & Adler-Nissen, 2012).

Countries with a small area can manage their borders quite well because the autonomy of the central government is close enough, unlike countries with large and separate regions such as Indonesia, which has thousands of islands. The distance of central autonomy from the borders of the state causes some border areas to be affected by lagging development. People living in the border areas of West Kalimantan are more likely to depend on Malaysia. They go through Malaysian territories for groceries, clothing needs, health, and entertainment. Road access and infrastructure development have been the main factors in this survival for many years (Fahrozi et al., 2019). In this case, to make the development of border areas more effective, local governments need special autonomy to cooperate with bordering regional governments to solve these border problems. This



is referred to as the success of the paradiplomacy of a subregion in a country by opening international relations with another country region at the same level.

This research integrates the discussion of paradiplomacy in managing border areas, a significant change in international relations in recent decades in border studies. From their case studies, this concept can be understood as an overview of political, economic and social transformations that challenge concrete geographical frontier regions. In addition, this article discusses the integration of paradiplomacy with border management to maintain the environment in border areas. This study also included an environmental analysis whose research focused on Sosek Malindo's efforts to address forest fires in the border areas of West Kalimantan, Indonesia, and Sarawak, Malaysia.

2.2. Research Method

This research aims to analyze the policy of the West Kalimantan Provincial Government to overcome forest fires in the bordering region of the West Kalimantan–Sarawak border region through the Sosek Malindo Cooperation. This research involved the working paper of the Sosek Malindo subregional meeting between Sarawak and West Kalimantan as the primary source of research. *The Kertas Kerja 2 Kerjasama Bidang Ekonomi, Perdagangan dan Perhubungan KK/JKK Sosek Malindo Tingkat/Peringkat Provinsi Kalimantan Barat - Negeri Sarawak year 2022 and 2023, which were obtained from Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah Kalimantan Barat (BAPPEDA) by application form.*

The Sosek Malindo provincial level in West Kalimantan is organized by BAPPEDA Kalbar, which has agreed on many programmes with Sarawak to manage their national borders. We will display the environment-related programs discussed in the working papers of the 35th and 36th Sosek Malindo assemblies in 2019, 2022 and 2023 and the additional information gathered from online media and news.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Forest fire management agreement by sosek malindo cooperation

Due to the emergence of problems that often occur at the border, the West Kalimantan provincial government needs to design a program at Sosek Malindo to address this joint problem. There have been several developments in cooperation since the agreement on Indonesia–Malaysia border cooperation in the field of security in 1967. This agreement underwent several revisions in 1972 and 1984. In the second revision (1984), security sector cooperation was expanded to border cooperation in the social, political, cultural and economic fields. In 1985, the Sosek Malindo Cooperation Forum was formed, and the Sosek Malindo was established at the West Kalimantan – Sarawak regional level. After that, other regional-level Sosek Malindo cooperation forums, such as the East Kalimantan – Sabah level, were established (Siregar, 2017).

Sosek Malindo's mission is to increase economic cooperation that is equitable, mutually beneficial, and environmentally sustainable (Irewati, 2005). Sosek Malindo at the West Kalimantan – Sarawak State Province level routinely holds annual meetings that discuss annual programs and evaluate Sosek Malindo cooperation on the West Kalimantan – Sarawak border. The program agreed that the results of this meeting concern several areas of cooperation, including cooperation in the social and cultural fields, the economic sector, trade and transportation. The Sosek Malindo Cooperation meeting produced new provisions and work programs agreed upon by the two countries, which were documented in a paper of the Sosek Malindo session. Sosek Malindo discussed forest fire prevention in paper 2, titled Sosek Malindo under the Environmental Sustainability Field, as shown in the table below (table 1).

The table above shows the Sosek Malindo Agreements in environmental sustainability, which can be divided into several sections. These agreements summarize the points that can help prevent forest fires in the region. The authors concluded that the results of the Sosek Malindo meeting in the environment were related to forest fires in 3 programmes: socialization, regulation, and cooperation.

The three programs, as concluded, show how both parties deal with forest fires on their borders. Blake (1998) explained that good environmental management is one aspect of creating a peaceful border. This action was also endorsed by other experts who wrote about managing the state's borders. Guo (2012) also describes how ancient Chinese people worked together to manage their common land. Although in the illustration presented, the shared ground looks like a place that is not included in the territory of every household, it can benefit all families, or the opposite can endanger them (Chan, 2012, p. 423). In our case, we can apply this kind of management to the forest areas on the border of the two regions, Sarawak and West Kalimantan. This is because problems that occur in one of the territorial areas of the two may be joint problems whose impact can be felt by both parties.

3.2. Socialization of the forest fire management programme

Humans take advantage of forests for many reasons, thus leading to forest fires. Many studies show that humans cause more than 90% of forest fires in Indonesia (Nugroho, 2019), intentionally or unintentionally or due to negligence in managing forests. Human activities that can cause forest fires include land conversion, illegal cultivation, agriculture, and transmigration projects (Kalbar, 2016, p. 11). Thus, forest and peatland fire prevention efforts must be carried out with a greater focus on

human factors. Socialization can make people aware of the importance of good forest management and inform them about the dangers that will be obtained when forest fires occur.

Table 1 Sosek Malindo Agreements on Environmental Sustainability.

No	Cooperation Field	Activities
1	Forest Fire and Haze Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conducting course and revising 'Standart Operating Procedure' (SOP) and MoU in dealing with forest fire and haze issues and held a meeting and exercise SOP to prevent peatland fires b) The Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department announced that it had held 1300 sessions of the firefighting program and had grown 53 community fire brigades involving 525 participants. c) Both parties agreed to protect their respective border areas so that there are no widespread fires that cause haze disasters, among other things, by educating the public about the dangers of smoke and the impact of fire on environmental health and the economy at all levels of society through the leadership of their respective districts d) Both sides ensure that each land use permit holder complements his efforts with facilities and infrastructure, personnel and budget for forest and land fire control/prevention, among other things, by making regulations and monitoring the implementation of the rules. e) Kalbar government has currently carried out law enforcement actions against the perpetrators of illegal forest burning
2	Green Industry Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) both parties agreed to jointly promote the implementation of Green Industry in border areas through <i>Analisis Mengenai Dampak Lingkungan</i> (AMDAL)/Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to expand the use of biofuels b) The Sarawak government has taken the initiative to develop a green economy policy by taking into account the circular economy and decarbonization in the six economic sectors that are included in the postcovid development strategy 2030
3	Heart of Borneo (HoB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The government of Sarawak announced that Heart of Borneo aims to mobilize conservation and environmental protection efforts in addition to increasing sustainable development that catalyzes the well-being of the local population b) Both parties agreed to preserve and protect the environment in HoB for environmental sustainability and support efforts to reduce the impact of climate change

Source: Sosek Malindo (2019, 2022, 2023).

Sosek Malindo conducts forest fire prevention socialization to the community through their respective regional heads/leaders. With this, the community can become more aware of the impact of forest fires on health, the surrounding environment, and the economy at all levels of society. This can be delivered by the police or security agencies in the regions of each respective country (Malaysia and Indonesia). The Singkawang and Kuburaya Resort Police carried out several examples of forest fire prevention socialization in West Kalimantan. The Kuburaya Police also works with the TNI, fire department, and regional disaster management agencies to prevent and overcome forest fires (Antara News, 2023b).

The results of this socialization effort are consistent with the other two efforts that this article will describe. Socialization seeks to sensitise and provide direction to various elements of society to obey the rules. In its socialization in July 2023, the West Kalimantan provincial government intensified all parties' roles to prevent forest and land fires. In coordination, the West Kalimantan local government emphasized that companies that obtain land use rights must comply with environmental regulations. The government emphasizes that companies should not clear land by burning it. Even if it is burning, it must be included with readiness to extinguish fires as early as possible (Antara News, 2023a).

3.3. Forest fire management by regulations

To address forest fires in border areas, Sosek Malindo needs to establish regulations to maintain a sustainable environment, especially for preventing forest fires. For example, both countries promoted the implementation of "green industry" in border areas with due regard to AMDAL and environmental impact assessments. They ensure that each holder of

a land use permit completes the facilities and infrastructure to combat forest and land fires by making regulations and monitoring the implementation. Monitoring and evaluation are needed to control the above rules so that the program runs and is obeyed by business/industry actors and the community. The emergence of the Heart of Borneo Programs (HoB) is also one of the regulations that will help achieve this and itself the result of the collaborations of countries in Borneo.

As a monitoring program for forest fire prevention, Indonesia's National Border Management Agency, *Badan Nasional Pengelolaan Perbatasan* (BNPP), also investigates and handles forest and land fires on the Indonesia-Malaysia border. This agency deployed a TNI – Polri and Manggala Agni force to extinguish hotspots and crack down on forest-burning perpetrators at the border. The abovementioned regulations are based on the law of the State of Indonesia in Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning environmental protection and management articles 108 and 69, paragraph 1 (Bnpp.go.id, 2019).

To date, in West Kalimantan, law enforcement actions have been taken against perpetrators of illegal forest/land burning. As of September 2019, approximately 79% of forestry and plantation business permit holders in Indonesia still need to comply with the obligation to provide forest and land control reports. However, every business license holder must provide forest fire prevention facilities and infrastructure (Arumningtyas et al., 2019, p. 4).

Environmental crimes can be considered severe human rights cases because they are extraordinary and cross-border crimes, according to Khalisah Khalid (2019), Head of the National Walhi Political Desk. He also criticized weak state policy, which seemed to show practical impunity, passivity and permissiveness and had no authority in the eyes of corporations (Arumningtyas et al., 2019, p. 5).

3.4. Collaborations in forest fire management

Despite the two efforts mentioned earlier to implement the Sosek Malindo program in managing environmental sustainability at the border, the two regional governments embraced other private and state agencies to carry out several programs. HoB is a three-country initiative in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia to manage highland tropical forest areas in Borneo based on conservation and sustainable development (Tomasek et al., 2009). This program also involves the collaboration of neighboring countries and the Worldwide Fund (WWF) to protect forests from deforestation.

Other state agencies involved in this program are forestry ministries in both countries, with all their apparatuses. For example, the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department has held 1300 sessions of fire awareness programs and has created 53 community troops with more than 525 participants (Sosek Malindo, 2019). The two countries also cooperate with the WWF in forest fire prevention by involving stakeholders at the border, assisted by the WWF's research on HoB and counseling on forest conservation by each official of the two countries to communities on each border (WWF, 2022).

To strengthen the role of the Indonesian government in preventing forest fires, various organizations, such as Walhi, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, and the Peatland Restoration Agency, also pressured President Joko Widodo to address this increasingly widespread forest fire case (Arumningtyas et al., 2019). WWF Indonesia will only be able to address Indonesia's forest and land fires with concerted effort. All elements of government, nongovernmental organisations, and communities are needed to protect forest ecosystems so that problems such as forest fires do not occur. This is the point of agreement between West Kalimantan and Sarawak in Sosek Malindo to address environmental issues.

3.5. Paradiplomacy in the border for better Sosek Malindo program

When discussing better Sosek Malindo cooperation, is it unclear whether Sosek Malindo, which has been guaranteed until now, is still not good? Or does this collaboration require some improvements so that the results obtained can be optimal and have a good impact on many people? Just as Sosek Malindo held an annual gathering to review the programs and developments that have been implemented, we also analyze and evaluate Sosek Malindo's work program following the handling and prevention of forest fires on the border of the two countries. Based on several programs described above, the average forest fire is handled by local governments by deploying several joint parties in their areas. Indonesia and Malaysia may implement the program agreed upon at the Sosek Malindo meeting. However, the role of this cooperation is only to provide policies that both parties must implement without any joint practice in realizing common goals.

The Working Group/Working Attorney Committee of Sosek Malindo was established in 1985. However, many agreements between the two countries are considered ineffective or have yet to produce significant results. Sutarmidji (Governor of West Kalimantan for the 2018-2023 period), in the coordination meeting forum for the development of the Aruk border area as a new center of economic growth, asked Sosek Malindo of the West Kalimantan border area to be disbanded. Midji considered that bilateral organization did not contribute significantly to building people's economy on the border of West Kalimantan. In the meeting held on February 10, 2020, Midji also threatened to report to the ministry that the cooperation needed to be more severe, which then became an obstacle to implementing the Sosek Malindo working group (Putri, 2020).

Sosek Malindo experienced obstacles in the management structure held by the central government of each country. The highest authority of Sosek Malindo is the GBC (General Border Committee), which was initially led by the deputy prime minister of Malaysia and the chairperson of the ABRI (Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia) in Indonesia. The GBC formed

Sosek Malindo at the central and regional levels, which are located in 3 provinces/states: Sosek Malindo Sarawak – West Kalimantan, Sabah – East Kalimantan, and Johor/Malacca – Riau. The leadership of Sosek Malindo at the central level was taken over by the TNI Territorial Staff and at the provincial area at the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) and led by the head of the Provincial Bappeda. The position of local governments in international cooperation, especially related to Sosek-Malindo cooperation, shows that although local governments can carry out international cooperation, their position cannot be viewed as a subject of international law (Rusmiyati et al., 2022).

This difference in structure is considered less effective because Sosek Malindo Central and Regional need better coordination (Rachmawati & Fauzan, 2012). The mechanism of foreign cooperation relations in specific fields by local governments is regulated by the Regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2019 concerning the General Guidelines for Foreign Relations by Regional Governments. Based on the regulation, any cooperation carried out by local governments with other countries must go through the approval of the central government following the provisions of laws and regulations. The central level of Sosek Malindo is responsible for formulating policies and development plans at the border. At the same time, the regions are more tasked with technical matters that are directly involved in projects implemented by Bappeda (Rachmawati & Fauzan, 2012, p. 102). This difference in policymaking made the Regional Sosek Malindo unable to plan what people needed at the border because it was far from the autonomy of the central government.

Sosek Malindo's cooperation is limited to only one MoU based on the results of annual meetings. The implementation of these measures has been limited. Guidelines for planning, management, and coordination are still limited and based on the MoU and have yet to be followed up in detail on the agenda of cooperation activities between the two countries (Rusmiyati et al., 2022, p. 244). In addition, Indonesia's vast territory has many problems, so Bappeda is for policies from the center to implement Sosek Malindo's programmes for border development. Regional governments need special autonomy to be more flexible in designing policies that will be implemented to build borders. Like one of the principles of the concept of paradiplomacy that does not have to wait for central government policies to move and carry out its programs, even local governments can carry out policies that are somewhat contrary to the center because of differences in needs between local and central governments. In border management, there are times when the central government gives authority to local governments to cooperate and manage their area independently.

Guo (2018) noted that governance and management practices in natural resources and the environment in transboundary areas are complex, and jurisdictions are usually subordinate to at least two or more sovereign states or subnational administrative units (Guo, 2018). Parker & Nissen (2012) provide an example of the integration of EU police to eradicate trans-border crimes, although they decrease border sovereignty (Parker & Adler-Nissen, 2012). Therefore, joint action involving cross-border cooperation can be essential for threatened species protection, environmental research, fire and pollution control, the eradication of wildlife poaching, and ecotourism encouragement, as mentioned by Blake's border management (Blake, 1998, p. 59). In Sosek Malindo's case, both parties can conduct more progressive actions to address shared problems in the border area. With cross-border cooperation, sound environmental management at the border can be achieved. Cooperation in border management can then be given to local governments to carry out international relations with regional levels in neighboring countries to manifest the concept of paradiplomacy at the local government level.

4. Final Considerations

Border Management and Paradiplomacy are two different elements in the social sciences. However, combining the two concepts can produce valuable information for solving some relevant problems. The example given by the author in this article is the governance of the West Kalimantan–Sawak border under the cooperation of Sosek Malindo, which has experienced obstacles due to policy-making authorities located at the central government level. While managed by Sosek Malindo West Kalimantan - Sarawak, it is far from the central government. This is where paradiplomacy complements the concept of border governance, even though the two have some differences. However, by excluding these contradictions, these two concepts can make Sosek Malindo's cooperation more meaningful and beneficial for the people of both countries.

In handling the forest fires on the West Kalimantan–Sarawak border, the West Kalimantan Provincial government, through Sosek Malindo, planned several programs to prevent forest fire cases in the region. These three efforts include socializing about forest fires, making regulations for handling and preventing forest fires, and cooperating with several related agencies to prevent and address forest fires. However, as a cooperation that addresses problems in both countries, Sosek Malindo experienced obstacles, especially structural obstacles, that made this cooperation considered not to have produced maximum results. Indonesia's foreign relations government also makes the role of local governments only an extension of the central government, making it difficult to coordinate in planning Sosek Malindo's work program. This is also why the paradiplomacy cooperation between Sosek Malindo West Kalimantan and Sarawak is less than optimal.

This research informs readers about paradiplomacy and border management concepts in cooperation with Sosek Malindo. This paper is expected to help Sosek Malindo cooperate even better or advise central and local governments to handle forest fires and other border issues more effectively. Researchers can then research and develop this issue from other conceptual points of view or focus more on managing forest fires in two countries very accurately.

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Ethical considerations

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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