

Opportunities and Challenges in Implementing Cash Waqf in Climate Change Mitigation in West Lombok Regency

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ABSTRACT.

Climate change has become a problem that threatens the entire world, and its impact is increasingly being felt in various regions, including the district of West Lombok. This region often experiences various natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and declining agricultural production due to climate change, which has an impact on the community's economy. This study aims to explore the opportunities and challenges of implementing cash waqf for climate change mitigation in West Lombok Regency. This study develops the concept of green waqf that can be used for forest rehabilitation, renewable energy, and sustainable natural resource management. The method used is qualitative research with literature studies, in-depth interviews with stakeholders, and analysis of secondary data related to the potential for waqf in the area. The results of the study show that the opportunities for implementing cash waqf are wide open for climate change mitigation in West Lombok. Meanwhile, the challenges faced are low public awareness of cash waqf, a limited number of cash waqf nazhir, and a limited number of cash waqf collection banks.

Keywords: Opportunities; Challenges; Climate Change; Cash Waqf

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the major challenges facing the world today, with widespread impacts on society, such as natural disasters, global warming, and damage to the environment's ecosystems (Abhijeet et al., 2023; Kadafi et al., 2022; Rocha et al., 2022). In 2023, according to a report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the average global temperature has increased by 1.10 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era (IPCC, 2021). This increase in temperature has had a significant impact on the Earth's ecosystems and climate. A report by the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that over the past 20 years, Indonesia has experienced deforestation of around 24 million hectares. This phenomenon has led to climate change, natural disasters, a widespread and prolonged clean water crisis, and famine due to crop failures caused by drought (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023).

The impacts of climate change and natural disasters are widely felt in Indonesia, with one of the affected areas being West Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara. Floods occurred in the sub-districts of Gunung Sari and Sekotong, while droughts occurred in the southern part of West Lombok in the sub-districts of Gerung, Kuripan, Lembar, and Sekotong. This has also resulted in low agricultural

productivity. Given the high dependence of these areas on agriculture, they face higher risks if climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are not taken.

To mitigate climate change, waqf funds, as an instrument of Islamic philanthropy, have enormous potential to contribute to climate change mitigation (Mardani, 2023; Mohamad & Abdul Kader, 2024; Musari & Sayah, 2022). Until now, waqf has only been used for the construction of religious facilities or Islamic boarding schools (Hassan et al., 2021; Mashuri et al., 2023). Therefore, the use of waqf funds can be expanded to support development based on environmental preservation (Adzkiya et al., 2022). Initiatives such as green waqf can provide innovative solutions to finance climate change actions in West Lombok, so that drought, flooding, and natural resource conservation can be addressed (Beik et al., 2022; Ibrahim, 2023; Listiana et al., 2023).

However, the use of waqf funds for climate change mitigation purposes is still very limited, both in terms of regulations, management, and public awareness. Therefore, research on the opportunities and challenges of using waqf funds to address climate change in West Lombok Regency is very important to explore the potential for collecting waqf funds, as well as the challenges faced in using these funds to address climate change in West Lombok.

RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research. Qualitative research is research used to study scientific conditions, with the researcher as the main actor (Creswell, 2003). Informants in this study were selected using a purposive sampling approach to obtain clear information. The criteria used were direct involvement in the waqf program and initiative in climate change mitigation over the past three years. The informants in this study were (Kohlbacher, 2006): (1) key informants, namely the head of the West Nusa Tenggara Representative Office of the Indonesian Waqf Board; (2) main informants, namely the West Lombok Regency Environment Agency; and (3) additional informants from village governments in West Lombok Regency. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews and documentation (Saldaña, 2016). This research began with the preparation of research instruments (interview scripts) and the collection of secondary data from the Indonesian Waqf Board of West Nusa Tenggara and related agencies (Saldaña, 2016). Data processing began with the display and reduction of data from the interviews with informants, followed by triangulation to ensure the accuracy of the information provided by the informants (Schwandt, 1996). The research results were then compiled.

RESEARCH FINDING

The potential for cash waqf in West Lombok is enormous if carried out collectively, for example, through regular contributions of at least IDR 5,000 per month from Islamic boarding school students, madrasah students, civil servants, and the general public. West Lombok has hundreds of Islamic boarding schools with tens of thousands of students spread across all sub-districts. These waqf funds could be a

sustainable and stable alternative source of financing. Research by Fauziah (2021) and Fauziah & Kassim (2022) confirms that cash waqf plays a very important role as a source of sustainable financing for social and economic empowerment, especially in areas with limited budgets.

The most relevant sector for utilising cash waqf as an instrument of development in West Lombok is forest rehabilitation in the sub-districts of Gunungsari, Lingsar, and Sekotong. Mangrove conservation in the southern coastal area of West Lombok. This is consistent with the idea of green waqf, which focuses on sustainable environmental programmes. Rusydiana et al., (2023) and Ali & Kassim (2020) stated that the integration of waqf for environmental conservation has the potential to support climate change mitigation.

Opportunities for Implementing Waqf Funds for Climate Change Mitigation in West Lombok Regency

1. High Community Participation

There are enormous opportunities for developing cash waqf for climate change mitigation in West Lombok. Participation from Islamic boarding school students, school students, civil servants, and the community can contribute if the benefits are tangible. The mangrove waqf initiative on the coast of West Java utilizes cash waqf to purchase mangrove seedlings, finance planting, and support the empowerment of coastal communities. Wahyudin et al. (2025) state that mangrove waqf serves a dual function of protecting the coastal ecosystem from abrasion and providing added value through mangrove-based ecotourism.

Rahayu and Iqbal state that community participation in waqf will increase if waqf programs are linked to environmental issues that are close to everyday life, such as environmental damage and flooding. Recent research on green waqf and forest waqf in Indonesia has confirmed that green waqf has excellent potential for climate change mitigation (Ali & Kassim, 2021; Jannah et al., 2021; Ningsih et al., 2022).

2. Multi-stakeholder collaboration

This multi-stakeholder collaboration involves the West Nusa Tenggara Indonesian Waqf Board (BWI NTB), the West Lombok Environment Agency, universities, private companies, and the community. According to Karimah et al. (2023) and Lubis et al. (2025), multi-stakeholder collaboration in waqf management has been proven to increase public trust and expand the benefits of waqf for sustainable development. BWI NTB acts as the managing institution and supervises the use of waqf funds to ensure transparency, accountability, and the realisation of waqf funds in accordance with sharia rules. The involvement of the West Lombok government provides land, strengthens regulations, and involves the community in the implementation of cash waqf for climate change mitigation (Hasan et al., 2022; Mukhlisin et al., 2025)

Research, education, and assistance are carried out by universities through research and community service activities. Universities can provide a scientific basis

for the use of cash waqf for climate change mitigation, such as tree planting, mangrove planting, or community-based renewable energy innovations (Amin & Al Arif, 2024). Meanwhile, private companies can contribute through corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. Financial support from companies as an additional source of funds that can strengthen the implementation of cash waqf for climate change mitigation in the form of providing environmentally friendly facilities or technology.

Challenges in Implementing Waqf Funds for Climate Change Mitigation in West Lombok Regency

1. Low Community Literacy

The literacy of the West Lombok community regarding cash waqf is still relatively low. Some Muslims still understand waqf as a means of financing mosques and madrasas. This condition shows that in the case of environmental issues and climate change, the community does not yet have an adequate understanding. Jannah & Soemitra (2022) and Rusydiana et al. (2020) research found that even though regulations on cash waqf already exist in Indonesia, public literacy on cash waqf has not increased, as evidenced by the fact that waqf collections are still only one per cent of the potential (BWI).

The orientation of waqf literacy is still dominant in the traditional worship sector, which means that cash collections are still limited. Islamiyati (2023) states that most research still focuses on the legality, governance, and physical assets of waqf, while implementation on contemporary issues such as climate change is still very limited. This confirms that public literacy is not only about knowing the term cash waqf, but also about understanding its broader benefits and relevance to current conditions.

2. Limited Institutional Capacity

The limited number and competence of Nazhir (waqf managers) is a fundamental obstacle, resulting in many cash waqf schemes not being managed productively. According to Napitupulu et al. (2024), Islamic social financial governance is highly dependent on institutional capacity, accountability, and the effectiveness of internal supervision. Strengthening institutional capacity is not only important for maintaining public trust but also for ensuring that cash waqf funds can be managed productively and transparently for the implementation of climate change mitigation.

With professional nazhir and good governance, cash waqf can be transformed into a social financial instrument that supports sustainable development, including climate change mitigation. Ascarya et al. (2023), points out that the Baitul Maal waat Tamwil (BMT)-based cash waqf model is capable of integrating social and commercial aspects for economic empowerment. Meanwhile, Elmahgop et al. (2025) emphasizes that waqf investment has great potential as a source of sustainable development.

3. Limited Waqf Collection Institutions

The next challenge is the limited number of Islamic banking partners licensed as LKS-PWU. Bank NTB Syariah is the only waqf money collector in NTB that has collaborated, so access for people who are far from Bank NTB Syariah is limited, which will increase the cost of participation. This lack of network can weaken the factors of convenience, trust, and reputation of institutions in collecting cash waqf through Islamic banking (Ab Shatar et al., 2021; Zulkifli et al., 2022).

In addition, Thaker & Bin (2018) states that a more integrated partnership between Islamic banks and professional nazirs is needed to improve the selection, monitoring, and efficiency of waqf distribution, but this requires the availability of more than just banking channels so that public acceptance becomes wider and governance becomes more credible. With the limited number of major banks for collecting cash waqf, community participation in West Lombok is low, and it is difficult to overcome the financing shortfall in climate change mitigation projects. Expanding the scope of banks that collect cash waqf is a tactical step to increase trust and strengthen the cash waqf collection ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that the potential for cash waqf in West Lombok is enormous and can contribute to climate change mitigation, particularly in forest and mangrove rehabilitation programs. Support from waqf institutions, local government, and the community provides a strong foundation for the development of cash waqf instruments, despite challenges such as low community literacy, limited capacity and number of nazirs (trustees), and a limited number of Islamic financial institutions that collect cash waqf. Conceptually, these findings confirm that cash waqf not only functions as an instrument of worship, but is also positioned as a social finance mechanism that supports climate change mitigation. The impact of this research lies in strengthening the perspective that the integration of cash waqf with the environmental agenda can open up alternative financing innovations while expanding the role of cash waqf from a traditional one to a strategic instrument for climate change mitigation.

This study also emphasizes the importance of increasing cash waqf literacy so that the community understands the role and function of cash waqf beyond its function for the construction of places of worship and schools. Strengthening the capacity of Nazhir through professional training and local government support is key to expanding the application of green waqf. Multistakeholder collaboration between waqf institutions, Islamic banks, the government, private companies, and the community needs to be facilitated so that cash waqf can play a role as an Islamic social finance instrument in climate change mitigation in West Lombok.

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