



## YDML PRODUCT GALLERY



The Dahetok Milah Lestari Foundation has established an innovative product gallery that significantly benefits the indigenous Papuan community. More than just an exhibition space, this gallery serves as a vibrant forum for showcasing and marketing local products crafted by community members. By providing a dedicated platform, local artisans and craftsmen can effectively demonstrate their skills, thereby enhancing their visibility and potential income while simultaneously reinforcing their unique cultural identity.



Beyond its role in product promotion, the gallery also functions as a comprehensive training and skills development center. It offers workshops and educational programs where community members can learn advanced production techniques and innovative practices. This focus on skill development not only improves the quality of the products they create but also empowers artisans to compete in broader markets, both regionally and nationally.



The impact of this gallery extends beyond economic benefits; it plays a crucial role in preserving and promoting Papuan culture and traditions. By emphasizing traditional crafts and sustainable practices, the gallery encourages a sense of pride in local heritage while fostering an environment of creativity and collaboration. With adequate support and ongoing engagement, this initiative has the potential to evolve into a successful model of community empowerment that could inspire similar projects across other regions in Indonesia, ultimately contributing to socio-economic development and cultural preservation on a larger scale.

## PROTECTING THE IMO SANGGASE TRIBE'S CUSTOMARY TERRITORY

- **Initial Steps to Safeguard Ancestral Identity**

In Sanggase Village, Okaba District, Merauke Regency, unrest is escalating among the Imo Sanggase Tribe due to the Food Estate Program, which threatens their land. This initiative aims to use up to 2.5 million hectares for rice and sugarcane farming, raising concerns about potential land loss and the erosion of their tribal identity.



The Imo Sanggase customary territory is vital for the tribe's traditions, featuring six sacred sites. Losing this land would mean losing not only their space but also their rich cultural heritage.



## Customary Territory Mapping Initiative

In response, the indigenous people, led by elders from the Gebze and Mahuze clans, are mapping their territory. This two-day meeting highlighted the importance of defining boundaries, identifying resources, and documenting sacred sites. Maryo S. Sanuddin from the EcoNusa Foundation supports this initiative, emphasizing that the mapping document is crucial for defending their rights.

## Natural Wealth of the Territory

The Imo Sanggase territory is abundant in natural resources. The surrounding waters host 25 fish species, and the land supports 43 animal species, including cassowaries and birds of paradise. Additionally, their forests boast 50 plant species vital for their daily needs and sustainable economics.

## Engaging the Younger Generation

This mapping process involves not just elders but also the youth, who participate in traditional education every October, learning the tribe's customs and values. This dual approach of documentation and education helps preserve their heritage.

## Facing Threats with Unity

With increasing threats from land clearing, the Sanggase people have united to protect their land, firmly opposing land-based investments like oil palm plantations.

Though the journey is long, there is hope. With community commitment and support from EcoNusa, they believe they can preserve their ancestral heritage.

## Conclusion

Mapping customary areas is essential for protecting the identity and culture of indigenous peoples. The Imo Sanggase Tribe exemplifies that unity and initiative can lead to a sustainable future.



**“Help us YDML preserve the Sanggase village forest”**