



The Existence of the Indigenous People of Cek Bocek in Lawin Village, Sumbawa

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Abstract. This research investigates the crucial role of indigenous peoples in contributing to global cultural diversity through the preservation of traditions and values passed down across generations. The study examines the existence of indigenous communities and the challenges they encounter in maintaining their identity, land, and culture in the modern era. A key focus is placed on documenting the rich cultural diversity of indigenous peoples, encompassing their languages, rituals, arts, and belief systems. Additionally, the research underscores the pivotal role indigenous peoples play in environmental conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. It also addresses the challenges posed by globalization, the lack of legal recognition, and resource conflicts, aiming to propose equitable and sustainable solutions. The study emphasizes the integration of traditional knowledge into inclusive development efforts, promoting a balanced relationship between humans and nature. The research employs a qualitative methodology, using observation, interviews, and documentation to provide comprehensive insights. The findings include two major areas: (1) Key Aspects of Indigenous Peoples' Existence, covering cultural diversity, relationships with nature, and social systems of balance; and (2) Challenges Facing Indigenous Peoples in the Modern Era, focusing on globalization and legal recognition.

Keywords: Existence, Indigenous Peoples, Cek Bocek.

1. Introduction

Indigenous peoples are an important part of cultural diversity in various parts of the world, because they have a rich and complex existence [1]. Indigenous peoples are a group of people who live in accordance with traditions and norms that are inherited from generation to generation. This research explains the existence of existing communities and at the same time explores important aspects of sustainability and challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the modern era [2]. Therefore, the study of indigenous peoples involves understanding and analyzing the diversity of cultures, values, and life systems of indigenous peoples. Because nature can provide life for humans and other creatures who live in it.

Some of the factors that are often the driving force in this research are involving historical, social, and economic aspects. Indigenous peoples often inherit traditions and cultures that are unique to the next generation [3], [4]. This research aims to document and understand the diversity of indigenous peoples, including language, rituals, art, and belief systems. The understanding of human rights has highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of indigenous peoples [5]. This research focuses on efforts to maintain the identity, customary land, and cultural and environmental sustainability of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples often live in harmony with nature and have local knowledge about natural resource conservation.

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This research also tries to understand and integrate traditional knowledge in environmental conservation and management efforts [6]. In many cases, indigenous peoples have been affected by colonialism and globalization [7], [8]. This research involves understanding the historical and contemporary impacts of interactions with external entities, including land rights loss and cultural change. The process of development and modernization often has a significant impact on indigenous peoples, both in terms of social, economic, and environmental aspects [9]. Therefore, a serious study is needed to understand these changes and identify strategies for inclusive and sustainable development. Conflicts over land ownership rights and other natural resources often arise between indigenous peoples and external parties who want to access natural resources in indigenous peoples' areas. Therefore, it is important that this study addresses indigenous peoples' conflicts and seeks a fair and sustainable solution for all parties involved. In addition, this research aims to give indigenous peoples a voice and increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making process that affects their survival.

Recognition of local knowledge and traditional rights is also the focus of this study. Because population growth and urbanization have affected the lifestyle and spatial layout of indigenous peoples [10]. So this research tries to understand these impacts and find ways to maintain cultural and environmental sustainability. Indigenous peoples often have a sustainability approach that focuses on the balance between humans and nature [11]. So it is very important to study to translate existing values to be contextualized in sustainable development. Studies on indigenous peoples often support community empowerment efforts, as well as ensuring that every development policy and program reflects the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples. Because of the reality that occurs in indigenous peoples, that the existence of community culture has been eroded by the needs of society in the era of progress like today [12], So it is not an exaggeration if this study shows the complexity and importance of the study of indigenous peoples, who often face significant challenges and changes in facing local and global dynamics.

2. Literature Review

Indigenous peoples can be defined as groups of humans who live according to rules, values, and traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Indigenous peoples have a close relationship with the surrounding natural environment and live in a different way than the majority of people in general [13]. Indigenous peoples refer to human groups that have a close relationship with a certain region, and carry out a lifestyle and social system based on values, customs, and traditions from generation to generation. Indigenous peoples tend to have a strong attachment to the surrounding natural environment and live a life that is integrated with that nature [14]. Indigenous peoples inherit traditions and cultures that have existed for centuries. It includes language, art, myths, rituals, and value systems that are passed down from generation to generation. Indigenous peoples have a close relationship with the environment in which they live. The indigenous people of Cek Bocek have local knowledge of natural resources, traditional agricultural techniques, and conservation practices.

The indigenous people of Cek Bocek have distinctive social and organizational patterns, often communal and kinship-based. Leadership and decision-making can be governed by certain customary structures. Rights to land and natural resources are an important aspect of indigenous peoples' identities. Indigenous peoples consider land to be an integral part of their cultural and spiritual heritage [7]. Despite being diverse, the indigenous people of Cek Bocek tend to run a traditional economy based on agriculture,

gardening and livestock. Indigenous communities rely on local knowledge for resource sustainability. Indigenous peoples also have specific human rights, including the right to defend their lives and culture, the right to indigenous lands, and the right to be involved in decision-making that affects their lives.

It is important to remember that indigenous peoples are very diverse and there is no single definition that includes all indigenous groups. Because indigenous peoples are found all over the world, there is no exception to the existence of indigenous peoples who Cek Bocek in Lawin village, Sumbawa Regency. Efforts to preserve the rights and sustainability of indigenous peoples are becoming increasingly important in facing challenges such as climate change, urbanization, and natural resource pressure.

3. Methods

This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach, focusing on understanding the cultural, social, and environmental aspects of the Indigenous People of Cek Bocek in Lawin Village. The research is planned to be conducted over a period of 6 months (from January to June 2024). This timeline includes phases of field observation, interviews, data collection, and analysis. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews with community leaders, indigenous members, and local authorities. Observations of cultural practices, rituals, and daily activities will also be conducted to understand their way of life and interaction with nature. Literature reviews, historical records, government documents, and previous studies will be used to complement the primary data.

The data analysis in this research will employ a thematic analysis approach. After collecting primary data through in-depth interviews and observations, the data will be transcribed and systematically organized [15]. Thematic coding will be used to identify and categorize recurring patterns and themes related to the cultural diversity, environmental practices, and challenges faced by the Indigenous People of Cek Bocek. These themes will be analyzed in relation to the two key areas of focus: (1) the core aspects of indigenous existence, such as their relationship with nature, cultural practices, and social structures, and (2) the challenges posed by globalization, loss of land rights, and lack of legal recognition. The analysis will also involve comparing the primary data with secondary sources, such as historical records and government documents, to contextualize the findings within broader sociopolitical and economic frameworks. The goal is to gain a comprehensive understanding of how indigenous knowledge systems can be integrated into sustainable development efforts, while also highlighting the socio-cultural transformations occurring within the community.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Important Aspects of the Existence of Indigenous Peoples

4.1.1 Cultural Diversity

Based on field observations, cultural diversity in the Cek Bocek indigenous community in Lawin Village, Sumbawa, can be seen in various aspects of daily life. The language used by the indigenous community has a distinctive local dialect, enriching their cultural identity. In addition, traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation, such as traditional ceremonies and religious rituals, are still practiced today. One of the most striking traditions is the maintenance and respect for historical sites, such as ancestral graves that are considered sacred. The Cek Bocek community also maintains and preserves traditional art forms such as music and dance which are usually

performed at certain traditional events. Fine art also plays an important role in their lives, as seen from the carved motifs that decorate traditional houses.

In addition, observations also show that the Cek Bocek indigenous community has a strong sense of attachment to the surrounding nature. They live in harmony with the environment and rely on local knowledge to manage natural resources sustainably. In this case, their traditions and values are not only important for cultural continuity, but also for environmental preservation. Interviews with several traditional figures and members of the Cek Bocek community revealed that they feel a great responsibility to preserve the culture inherited from their ancestors. According to one traditional figure, local languages and dialects are symbols of identity that need to be maintained even though the challenges of modernization are increasingly real.

"Our language is our identity. It is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of the values we adhere to".

Meanwhile, a young resident said that they are trying to continue practicing ancestral traditions, even though changing times demand adaptation.

"We honor our ancestors by guarding their graves and preserving traditional ceremonies. Despite pressure from the outside world, we are trying to preserve what has been passed down to us,".

The interviews also revealed that the preservation of historical sites such as ancestral graves and traditional sites is considered very important because they believe that these places have great spiritual value. They also realize that their existence as an indigenous community cannot be separated from the task of maintaining the balance between humans and nature. The Cek Bocek community believes that their understanding of nature and inherited local knowledge must be passed on to the next generation so that harmony with the environment is maintained.

Cultural diversity refers to the variation and difference in life patterns, values, norms, beliefs, languages, arts, and traditions owned by a group of people or communities. Cultural diversity encompasses various aspects of human life that shape the identity of a group or individual. People of various ethnicities have their own cultural characteristics, such as language, customs, and traditions. Religious diversity leads to differences in rituals, beliefs, and moral values [5], [16]. The same is true of language, which is one of the important elements in cultural diversity, because each group of people tends to have its own language or dialect. In addition, traditions also include customs, ceremonies, and practices that are passed down from generation to generation. Diversity is also seen in fine art, music, dance, and other forms of art [17], [18]. So in principle, indigenous peoples are the guardians of cultural diversity. By preserving traditions, languages, arts, and beliefs that have existed for centuries. This diversity provides invaluable color and cultural richness. Another thing that is also important for the indigenous people of Cek Bocek to do is to protect the graves of their ancestors, historical sites and preserve the ancestral traditions in the indigenous peoples which are also in line with the expectations of the Indonesia.

4.1.2 Relationship with Nature

Based on observations in the Cek Bocek indigenous community, it is clear that the relationship between the community and nature is very close. The indigenous community practices a lifestyle that is completely dependent on environmental sustainability. For example, they use traditional farming techniques that are in accordance with the natural cycle. This technique not only maintains soil fertility but also protects the local ecosystem

from over-exploitation. Around the village, forests, rivers, and other natural resources are considered sacred, and the indigenous community adheres to customary rules that prohibit the destruction of nature. Activities such as hunting, fishing, or collecting forest products are carried out with ecological balance in mind, and each activity is guided by a customary calendar that follows the changing seasons.

In addition, the Cek Bocek indigenous community maintains a customary forest that is a place to store various traditional medicinal plants. This forest is also used as a source of knowledge for the younger generation, where children are taught how to protect and utilize nature without destroying it. Traditional rituals carried out by the community, such as harvest ceremonies or prayers for soil fertility, strengthen their spiritual connection with the elements of nature, and this is clearly seen in the way they care for the surrounding environment. From interviews with traditional leaders and community members, they emphasized the importance of maintaining balance with nature as part of daily life. A traditional leader explained:

"For us, nature is not just a place to live, but part of our soul. Mountains, rivers, forests, all have spirits that must be respected. If we destroy nature, we also destroy ourselves."

This statement reflects the spiritual beliefs of the Cek Bocek community towards nature, where every element of nature is considered to have sacred value. A traditional farmer from the Cek Bocek community also shared how they use local knowledge to farm sustainably.

"We know when to plant and when to stop. We don't use chemical fertilizers, only natural materials from the forest that we cultivate ourselves. That keeps the soil fertile and the plants grow well without damaging the environment,"

The interviews also showed that the indigenous community adheres to customary laws that govern how they interact with nature. One of the traditional leaders explained:

"There are clear rules in our customary law. For example, we are not allowed to cut down trees in the forest carelessly, or throw garbage into the river. There are rules for everything because nature is a heritage that we must protect for our children and grandchildren."

Several informants also spoke about their concerns about the impact of rapid modernization and development on their environment.

"We are afraid that if there is too much development, our forests and customary lands will disappear. If nature is destroyed, we will lose our identity and way of life,"

These concerns show that although the Cek Bocek indigenous community has a strong environmental management system, they are still vulnerable to external threats, such as deforestation and urbanization.

Indigenous peoples have a deep connection with nature and the environment. Indigenous peoples understand the surrounding ecosystem and develop a sustainable lifestyle, maintaining a balance between humans and nature. Indigenous peoples have a very close relationship with nature. The relationship includes aspects such as spirituality, environmental sustainability, and a way of life in harmony with nature. Indigenous peoples have spiritual beliefs that are closely related to the elements of nature. Indigenous peoples consider certain mountains, rivers, forests, or animals to be spiritual entities that must be respected and protected. Indigenous peoples often implement sustainability practices that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Indigenous peoples have a deep understanding of local ecology and strive to maintain the balance of the inhabited ecosystems [2], [19]. The use of natural resources is carried out in a sustainable way and based on natural cycles. Indigenous peoples often use local knowledge to manage resources such as soil, water, and plants wisely so as not to damage the environment. Indigenous peoples' agricultural systems often reflect a balance with nature.

Indigenous peoples use traditional farming techniques by utilizing local knowledge of the soil, weather, and natural cycles. Indigenous peoples have customary law norms that govern their relationship with nature. Through customary law, it can involve prohibitions against actions that damage nature or destroy important natural resources. Indigenous celebrations and rituals are related to natural cycles, such as harvest seasons or other natural events [20]. This reflects the spiritual and cultural relationship of indigenous peoples with the surrounding environment. Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge of medicinal plants, natural remedies, and other natural resource utilization is an integral part of daily life and shows indigenous peoples' local wisdom towards nature. The existence of indigenous peoples and their local wisdom in interacting with nature has become an important focus in environmental conservation efforts and the development of the concept of global sustainability. Understanding indigenous peoples' practices provides valuable insights into maintaining the balance and sustainability of the ecosystem.

4.1.3 Social Systems and Balance

In observations in the Cek Bocek indigenous community, it is seen that their social structure is strongly based on the principle of balance between individuals, families, and communities. Every decision taken always involves deliberation involving many parties, both from the old and young. This process reflects strong collectivity values where common welfare is prioritized over personal interests. For example, when a small conflict occurs between community members, traditional leaders immediately mediate a meeting to resolve the problem through deliberation and consensus.

In addition, the distribution of roles and responsibilities in this indigenous community is closely related to the sustainability of their harmonious life with nature. The young men are tasked with guarding the forest and land, while the women manage natural resources for family needs. This structure not only maintains the survival of the community, but also protects the surrounding ecosystem. In various traditional rituals, the role of each member of the community is very visible, from preparing ceremonies to preserving natural resources. These ceremonies not only strengthen relationships between community members but also strengthen spiritual relationships with nature.

From the results of interviews with several indigenous community leaders, one of the indigenous leaders stated:

"Our lives are always run with the principle of togetherness. Whatever we decide, we must think about the impact on everyone. We live together, so decisions that only benefit one party are unacceptable."

This shows that the social system of the Cek Bocek indigenous community prioritizes deliberation as the main means of decision-making. A traditional elder also emphasized the importance of the principle of equality in the community.

"Everyone here is the same, no one is higher than the other. We need each other, and that's what makes our community strong,"

This value of equality is evident in the way they divide tasks in society, where everyone has an important role that supports collective welfare. In an interview with one of the indigenous youth, he explained that indigenous leaders are chosen based on wisdom and experience.

"Our leaders are not chosen because of their wealth or status, but because of their wisdom. They have lived a long time and know how to maintain balance in the community and with nature,"

Indigenous leaders play an important role in maintaining social balance and resolving conflicts that arise wisely, always through dialogue and agreement. In addition, indigenous communities also have customary norms that regulate various aspects of their lives. A housewife in an indigenous village explained:

"We have rules about marriage, inheritance, and how we interact with each other. All of that is regulated by custom, and we obey it because that's how we maintain peace here."

This reflects that customary norms are not just rules, but are a social foundation that maintains harmony in social interactions in the community. Indigenous peoples in general have a unique social structure. Balance between individuals, families, and communities is highly valued in indigenous communities. Decisions taken collaboratively and with common interests in mind. Through the social system, indigenous peoples are often based on values, norms, and structures that are different from the social system of modern societies. There are also several elements that contribute to the balance in indigenous peoples. The social system of indigenous peoples generally has a close relationship with nature. The social structure of indigenous peoples is based on the principles of sustainability and harmony with the environment. So that the division of roles and responsibilities in indigenous peoples always reflects a sustainable way of life. Indigenous peoples have strong collectivity values, with a focus on the common welfare and sustainability of the community [11]. And the decisions taken always consider the impact on the entire existing community, not just the interests of individuals.

Indigenous peoples emphasize the principle of equality among community members. Solidarity in indigenous peoples is based on interdependence and mutual support between each other. In many ways, indigenous peoples have traditional leaders or elders who play an important role in maintaining social balance. These leaders are chosen based on their wisdom, experience, and dedication to the interests of the community [21]. Indigenous peoples have customs and social norms that guide the behavior of their members. This includes rules about engagement, marriage, inheritance, and other social interaction procedures. Indigenous peoples' traditional economic systems often involve the exchange and redistribution of resources [22]. Indigenous principles govern how resources are distributed and shared within a community. The cycle of rituals and celebrations in indigenous peoples plays an important role in maintaining social balance. Traditional celebrations and ceremonies always present an opportunity for the community to gather, celebrate, and strengthen social bonds.

Conflicts in indigenous peoples tend to be resolved through a process of deliberation and consensus. Problem solving/conflict is based on the values of local wisdom and resolution that maintains harmony in the community [23]. It is important to note that each indigenous peoples have their own uniqueness, and not all indigenous peoples have the same characteristics. However, these principles of social balance provide an overview of how indigenous peoples organize themselves to achieve harmony and sustainability in social interactions with others and the nature they occupy.

4.2 Challenges of the Existence of Indigenous Peoples in the Modern Era

4.2.1 Globalization

In observing the Cek Bocek indigenous community, it can be seen that the impact of globalization has begun to affect various aspects of their lives. Daily life, such as consumption and eating patterns, has changed along with the entry of technology and information from outside. Young people in the community have begun to use technological devices such as smartphones more often to access social media, which introduces lifestyles and cultures from outside that are different from their traditional values. In addition, globalization has triggered migration, where some community members have begun to move to big cities to find work. This has caused a shift in the social structure, especially in terms of the involvement of the younger generation in preserving customs and traditions. Traditional rituals and ceremonies that were previously attended by all members of the community are now increasingly rarely attended by the younger generation, because most of them are more interested in a modern lifestyle.

On the other hand, indigenous communities also experience pressure from outside parties who want to exploit the natural resources they have. Several areas rich in natural resources such as forests and rivers have begun to be targeted by companies that want to profit from this wealth. Although indigenous communities try to defend their rights to land and resources, they often do not have enough legal power to resist global pressure. In an interview with a traditional leader of Cek Bocek, he stated:

"We feel the impact of globalization, especially when our young people are more interested in technology and foreign cultures. They spend more time on social media than attending traditional ceremonies."

This shows that the influence of globalization is very much felt in changes in the lifestyle of indigenous people, especially the younger generation who are starting to move away from local traditions. One of the young people in the indigenous community also acknowledged that access to modern technology opens up many opportunities, but also brings challenges.

"We can learn many new things from the internet, but on the other hand, I feel disconnected from my own culture. Many of my friends no longer care about local customs or languages".

This reflects that the younger generation feels a tug-of-war between a modern lifestyle and the obligation to preserve their traditions. A housewife in the indigenous community also expressed her concerns regarding the exploitation of natural resources in their area.

"We have always lived off nature, but now there are many outsiders who want to take what we have. We are worried that if they continue to take, we will have nothing left to pass on to our children and grandchildren".

These fears reflect the real impact of globalization on the sustainability of ecosystems that have long been the source of life for indigenous peoples. However, on the other hand, some indigenous peoples see opportunities in globalization. A local activist said:

"We can now use social media to voice our concerns. Many people abroad support indigenous peoples' rights, and this gives us the strength to fight".

This shows that while globalization brings challenges, indigenous peoples are also using technology to fight for their rights at the global level. Indigenous peoples often feel the negative impact of the presence of globalization. Changes in lifestyles, technological advances, and the entry of outside cultures can threaten the preservation of indigenous peoples' traditions and values. The influence of globalization on the existence of indigenous peoples in the modern era has a complex impact on various aspects of their lives [24]. Globalization brings cultures from outside that tend to dominate or replace local cultures. Indigenous peoples are under pressure to adopt different lifestyles and global values, which can lead to the loss of local cultural identities. Global connectivity often brings changes in the lifestyles of indigenous peoples. The influence of mass media and technology has introduced new consumption patterns, changes in diets, and different lifestyles. In the context of the global economy, natural resources owned by indigenous peoples are targeted for exploitation by outsiders. Unsustainable extortion of natural resources can threaten the sustainability of the environment and the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

Globalization encourages migration and urbanization. Indigenous community members may be forced to migrate to cities in search of work or face adverse environmental changes, which in turn has a profound impact on the social structure and sustainability of local traditions that have been embraced over the years [25]. Economic globalization has also made indigenous peoples more dependent on the global market. Economic fluctuations or policy changes can have a major impact on the local economy of indigenous peoples. Globalization also brings international attention to human rights. This is an opportunity to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, but on the other hand, global pressure also presents challenges related to land rights, resource rights, and the cultural sustainability of indigenous peoples. But on the other hand, globalization also opens the door for indigenous peoples to actively engage in international dialogue, gain support, and promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples use social media and global networks to voice their problems and needs. Globalization can also affect the language and education system of indigenous peoples and affect human life patterns [26]. The increased use of global languages and formal education systems could affect the way indigenous peoples transmit their traditional knowledge and languages to younger generations. It is also worth remembering that the impact of globalization on indigenous peoples can vary depending on the local context, history, and other factors that exist. It is also no less important to maintain a balance between integration with the global world and the preservation of cultural heritage and the environment of indigenous peoples. The protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the recognition of cultural diversity are important aspects in overcoming the negative impacts of globalization.

4.2.2 Legal Recognition

In observing the Cek Bocek indigenous community in Sumbawa Regency, it was found that they still face many challenges in terms of legal recognition of their rights to land and natural resources. This legal uncertainty often causes conflicts with outsiders who want to access these resources. These conflicts often involve land disputes, where indigenous people feel threatened by losing the territory that they have guarded and managed for generations. In several cases, the Cek Bocek community has experienced intimidation from outsiders who have economic interests in the land and natural resources in their area. They do not have sufficient legal power to defend their rights, because until now there has been no official recognition from the Sumbawa regional government of their existence as an indigenous community.

In addition, the Cek Bocek community also experiences difficulties in maintaining their traditional way of life, because more and more outsiders are trying to exploit natural resources in their area. Although they implement sustainable practices in managing natural resources, the lack of legal recognition makes them vulnerable to exploitation by parties who do not pay attention to environmental sustainability. A Cek Bocek customary leader who was interviewed said:

“We have been fighting for our rights to the land and forests that we own for a long time, but until now the local government has not recognized our existence. We often have to deal with outsiders who want to take over our land without permission.”

This statement reflects the legal injustice experienced by indigenous peoples, where their rights are often ignored by the government and other stakeholders. An indigenous community member also added:

“The land and natural resources here are the inheritance of our ancestors. We have looked after them wisely, but now we are worried that future generations may no longer have access to this land due to increasing exploitation by outsiders.”

This shows deep concerns about the sustainability of the environment and cultural heritage that indigenous peoples have long guarded. In addition, one community leader stated that they felt they were not involved in decision-making that affected their area.

“We are rarely consulted when there are projects or development plans in our area. We only find out after they come and start working,”.

This shows the lack of participation of indigenous people in decision-making processes that directly affect their lives, even though they traditionally have the right to manage their own land and resources. However, amidst all these challenges, the Cek Bocek indigenous people continue to fight for legal recognition of their rights. A local activist said:

“We continue to try to raise our voices, both through local and national media, so that the government will listen and give proper recognition to the Cek Bocek indigenous people. Legal recognition is very important to protect our rights and prevent bigger conflicts in the future.”

Indigenous peoples still face many challenges related to legal recognition of their rights to land and natural resources. This results in conflicts with parties who want access to these resources. Legal recognition of the existence of indigenous peoples has a number of very important reasons, including involving aspects of human rights, environmental sustainability, and social justice. Legal recognition by providing protection for the human rights of indigenous peoples. This includes land rights, natural resource rights, the right to maintain culture, educational rights, and other rights. Indigenous peoples often have unique traditions, languages, and ways of life that must be maintained and preserved. Legal recognition creates a legal basis that ensures that indigenous peoples are treated fairly and equally in the eyes of the law. This involves the same rights as other groups in terms of legal protection and access to resources.

Indigenous peoples also often carry out sustainability practices in natural resource management. Legal recognition strengthens the role of indigenous peoples as guardians of the environment and supports sustainable practices. Legal recognition provides a basis for the economic and social empowerment of indigenous peoples. This includes the right to develop and manage economic projects in indigenous peoples' territories and support the development of traditional livelihoods. Legal recognition gives indigenous peoples

the right to participate in decision-making that affects their lives, especially in terms of natural resource management and development in indigenous peoples' territories [27]. Legal recognition also helps prevent conflict and violence by creating a legal basis for conflict resolution, especially those related to land and natural resource rights. Legal recognition is a form of respect for cultural diversity within a country. This recognizes that indigenous peoples have a unique and valuable cultural heritage that must be respected and preserved.

By recognizing the role of indigenous peoples in natural resource management and sustainability practices, legal recognition also supports sustainable development that takes into account ecological and social impacts. Legal recognition allows indigenous peoples to create a balance between modernity and tradition, allowing indigenous peoples to remain engaged in the global world while retaining their cultural identity and values. However, in reality, the Cek Bocek indigenous people in Sumbawa Regency have not been informed about their existence until today, and continue to struggle to continue to demand protection and recognition by the Sumbawa Regency Regional Government [28], [29], [30]. Because legal recognition of indigenous peoples reflects a commitment to human rights, environmental sustainability, and human values. It can also reduce inequality and conflicts that can arise due to legal inequality.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study emphasizes the vital role of indigenous peoples in preserving cultural diversity, maintaining a sustainable relationship with nature, and upholding unique social systems that contribute to social balance. Indigenous communities are not only the custodians of traditions, languages, and practices that have been passed down through generations, but they also embody sustainable environmental practices, drawing upon deep ecological knowledge and spirituality. Their social structures, which prioritize collective well-being and consensus-based decision-making, offer an alternative to the individualistic frameworks found in modern societies.

However, the study also highlights the significant challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the modern era. Globalization, while offering opportunities for engagement in international dialogues, also poses threats to the preservation of indigenous traditions, cultures, and livelihoods. The pressure to adapt to global values and economic systems often leads to the erosion of local identities and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. Furthermore, the lack of legal recognition continues to be a major obstacle for indigenous communities, leaving them vulnerable to conflicts over land and resources and limiting their ability to fully participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and territories.

Thus, legal recognition and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples are critical to ensuring the preservation of their cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and social structures. Without this recognition, indigenous peoples are at risk of marginalization and cultural extinction. Therefore, policies that support the empowerment of indigenous peoples, respect for their rights, and the sustainable management of their lands and resources are essential for maintaining both cultural diversity and environmental sustainability in a rapidly globalizing world.

6. Declaration

Author contributions and responsibilities - The authors made major contributions to the conception and design of the study. The authors took responsibility for data analysis,

interpretation and discussion of results. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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