

Education and Legal Assistance in Sustainable Natural Resource Management: Socialization of Traditional Government Regulations

Sostones Y. Sisinaru* and Alfian Makaruku

Department of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law, Indonesian Christian University of
Maluku, Indonesia

*sostonessisinaru08@gmail.com

Article Info	Abstract
Article history: Received: February 19, 2026 Accepted: March 16, 2026 Published: March 28, 2026 Keywords: Education Natural resources Regulation Socialization Traditional government This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License © 2026 Bubungan Tinggi: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat	The existence of indigenous communities has long been linked to indigenous governance systems that have been passed down from generation to generation. Maluku Provincial Regulation No. 14 of 2005 on “Reaffirmation of Villages as Indigenous Legal Communities in the Administrative Area of the Maluku Provincial Government” serves as the legal framework for the formulation of regency and city regulations throughout Maluku Province. This regulation provides legal space to restore the status of indigenous communities and indigenous governance through regional regulations that reflect local characteristics as a manifestation of local wisdom and traditional rights. However, several problems have arisen in practice, including weaknesses in the implementation of regulations and varying interpretations of legal provisions among the community. This transition has indirectly reduced and weakened the existence of customary government institutions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, one important step that has been taken is to implement a legal education program aimed at strengthening the customary government system to preserve and maintain the existence of customary government, especially in Negeri Oma, in a sustainable manner. This community service activity used a Participatory Action Research (PAR) and socialization method accompanied by a question-and-answer session. A total of 18 participants, comprising government officials and members of the community, took part in this Community Service activity. The results obtained after the implementation of this activity included, first, an increase in the community's understanding of local customary government regulations in natural resource management. Second, the local government created a draft customary regulation with community involvement regarding natural resource management in Negeri Oma. Through the implementation of this community service activity, the people of Negeri Oma can learn about legal certainty in protecting their customary rights as an indigenous community. This activity certainly has an impact on improving welfare through well-managed natural resources.
To cite this article: Sisinaru, S. Y., & Makaruku, A. (2026). Education and legal assistance in sustainable natural resource management: socialization of traditional government regulation. <i>Bubungan Tinggi: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat</i>, 8(1), 327-336.	

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, the existence of customary law communities and all accompanying institutions and value systems is constitutionally recognized as an integral part of the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. This acknowledgment is manifested in several regulations, notably Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, which establishes a legal framework for the existence and governance of village administration grounded in local rights and traditions ([Kholik et al., 2023](#); [Situmorang, 2016](#)). This law not only affirms the legitimacy of customary law communities as legal subjects but also opens up opportunities for strengthening customary institutions in local governance ([Sumaya, 2026](#)).

This regulation serves as a normative foundation that provides legal certainty and a “green light” for indigenous peoples to continue to implement, maintain, and preserve the uniqueness of their system of government, customary law, and local wisdom in Maluku Province, which has a traditional government structure consisting of negeri, soa, and hereditary kingship. Consequently, these legal regulations function not merely as a means of formal acknowledgment but also as a tool for the safeguarding and empowerment of customary law communities amidst the fluctuations of social transformation and contemporary administrative governance ([Kholik et al., 2023](#); [Rubi et al., 2024](#)).

Maluku Province Regional Regulation Number 14 of 2005 concerning the Re-establishment of the Country as a Customary Law Community Unit within the Maluku Provincial Government Area serves as the legal basis for district/city governments in the Maluku Province to formulate derivative regulations in accordance with their authority. The implementation of regional laws adapted to the specific peculiarities of each region represents a strategic step toward restoring and strengthening the position of communities that adhere to customary law and the customary government systems they employ. This effort also represents the recognition of local wisdom and the traditional rights of indigenous peoples as guaranteed in Article 18B, paragraph (2), of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and accommodated in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning villages ([Matuankotta, 2020](#); [Wijayanto et al., 2022](#)).

Following Maluku Province Regulation No. 14 of 2005, Central Maluku Regency has released a regional regulation called Central Maluku Regency Regulation No. 01 of 2006 about the state. This rule lets the local government make rules for the area ([Bunga, 2020](#)). This will have a big effect on village rules because Indonesia is a country that follows the rule of law, which means that everyone must follow the law. The customary law community in Central Maluku Regency has failed to effectively safeguard and manage existing natural resources ([Primawardani, 2017](#); [Wance et al., 2020](#)), attributable to the absence of legal instruments that confer legitimacy for resource protection and management within the region.

Oma is a village located in the administrative district of Pulau Haruku (Figure 1), Central Maluku Regency (Tanihatu, Tahalele, Talahatu, Simarmata, & Sutiksno, 2021). In addition to Negeri Oma, there are 10 other villages scattered along the northern and southern coasts of Haruku Island. This village is among the customary law communities that have consistently maintained their identity, structure, and customary institutions ([Alfons et al., 2024](#)). The system of government in Oma is based on customary laws that are alive and well within the community, with leadership being obtained through a mechanism of succession based on lineage in accordance with local customs. This pattern demonstrates the strength of traditional legitimacy in the governance of the village.



Figure 1 Location of Haruku Island and Negeri Oma
(<https://sultansinindonesieblog.wordpress.com/maluku/haruku-negeri-negeri-di-pulau-haruku/>)

On the other hand, Oma has abundant marine and fishery resources, which are the mainstay of the community's economic life. The coastal area and its waters provide various resources, raising questions about who has the right to manage and use marine products with high economic value, making this sector strategically important for the continued welfare of the community. However, the boundaries of Oma's customary waters are adjacent to and, in some cases, overlap with the territories of neighboring countries. This situation often raises issues related to claims over the management and utilization of marine resources. Differences in the interpretation of customary boundaries and practices of resource utilization often trigger tensions between communities. In certain situations, these frictions develop into conflicts that are difficult to avoid, especially when economic interests clash with claims over customary rights to the sea based on the customary laws of each country. This situation raises questions about who has the right to manage and use the resources (Hung, 2025). For this reason, strengthening regulations based on recognition of customary law, affirming territorial boundaries, and establishing dispute resolution mechanisms that respect customary values are vital for preserving social harmony and the sustainable management of marine resources in Oma and the surrounding area.

The problems that arise include the absence of legal regulations related to the protection and management of marine natural resources. This situation has led to unregulated fishing activities, which often cause conflicts between communities. Ironically, the family ties that have been formed since the time of their ancestors are beginning to erode, which certainly has a significant impact on the survival of the Oma community. Considering the issues outlined above, and to maintain traditional governance, the objective of this community service activity is to disseminate information on the formulation of local regulations aimed at strengthening the traditional governance system to protect and manage natural resources in the Oma Region in a sustainable manner.

METHODS

Participatory Action Research (PAR) (Rahmat & Mirnawati, 2020) is the methodology that is utilized in this community service activity. The primary objective of this research is to educate the people of Oma about the significance of laws and customary government systems in order to safeguard and manage fishery resources in Oma in a manner that is environmentally responsible. The event that took place on April 16, 2025, and May 9, 2025, involved 18 participants, including representatives from the Oma local government and indigenous communities, and took place at the local government office. This activity was carried out through socialization with the purpose of enhancing the literacy of the community. The team that was responsible for carrying out this community service project was comprised of two lecturers and two students, and program partners, specifically the

government and the Oma community council, assisted them. The Community Service (*Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat/ PkM*) activities carried out use the following stages:

- a. Preparation Stage. At this stage, the PkM Team will: During this round of preparation, the PkM Team will do the following: First, you should engage in some preliminary planning in order to establish a plan and a schedule for the community service program. Second, providing individuals with tasks or job descriptions that are tailored to their abilities and then ensuring that they are completed according to the predetermined timetable. Third, observing in the field in order to get knowledge about the current situation of the community, the local government, and the election committee at the sub-district and local government levels, and documenting what they observe in the field. The last is collaborating with the local government to ensure that community service activities are prepared by sending out first messages for matters such as informing the community, preparing the facilities and projectors, and other similar matters.
- b. There are stages of implementation. The group that was proposing at this stage carried out the following activities: First, coordinated the preparation of the location where this community service would be carried out, which was scheduled to take place at the Oma District Office, which is located in the Central Maluku Register. Next, the community service activity starts with a pre-test for participants, which consists of five questions with brief answers. This is followed by a discussion session, during which experts present the draft village ordinances. After the discussion session, experts and community members share ideas, suggestions, and recommendations. Following the conclusion of the activity, a post-test is carried out in order to evaluate the results associated with the activity. Lastly, a group photo will be taken at the conclusion of the community service activity, which will include the PkM team, members of the community, and representatives from the local government.
- c. Evaluation Stage. Currently, the proposed entity will: First, organize a meeting to assess the results of the community service activities. Organize a meeting to assess the results of the community service activities undertaken, subsequently developing a plan and timeframe for drafting the community service article. Second, The process of assigning tasks or job descriptions in order to collect the essential data for the service article, which includes documentation from service activities, journals, books, and other resources. And lastly, once the service proposal has been accepted, you will need to compile and submit the final progress report as well for the UKIM Service Institution to evaluate.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The initial meeting for the drafting of the Regional Regulation was held on April 16, 2025, in the Oma Region and was facilitated by the Community Service (PkM) team consisting of Dr. Sostones Y. Sisinaru, S.H., M.Hum., Alfian R. Makaruku, S.H., M.H., and Sam Arnando Mesak. The visit and meeting were conducted directly in the region targeted by the program to strengthen the traditional government system as part of the initial effort to build a common understanding regarding the drafting of the regulation. The initiation process was carried out by visiting and discussing directly with local community leaders, considering that each element of the government and community leaders had different schedules and responsibilities, making it difficult to gather them at the same time. Therefore, a gradual direct dialogue approach was considered more effective for gathering initial aspirations and input. Documentation of the initial meeting to draft the Oma Village Regulation with community leaders is presented in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Initial meeting to draft the Oma Village Regulation with community leaders

During the visit and meetings held at the Oma State Office, the Head of Village, the Village Secretary, the Chair of the Village Consultative Council (BPN), and a number of government staff attended the event. Based on the results of the discussions, it was revealed that Oma has yet to have a specific regulation governing the protection of natural resources, including fishery resources. On that basis, the parties present agreed to draft and enact a regulation on the protection of natural resources as a strategic step in strengthening the traditional governance system in Oma.

One of the strategic outcomes that emerged from the meeting was the growing awareness and initiative of the Government of Oma to draft and enact a regional regulation that truly reflects the real needs of the community, especially those related to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. This idea emerged as a response to the importance of providing a clear legal basis for managing natural resources to preserve their sustainability, while at the same time, state regulation, which was designed to be in line with and integrated into the program's agenda, optimizes their use for the welfare of the community. This initiative was subsequently agreed upon as the starting point in the process of formulating the State Regulation, which was designed to be in line with and integrated into the program agenda to strengthen the traditional governance system in Oma State, Central Maluku Regency. Thus, the establishment of this regulation is not only intended as an administrative instrument but also as part of efforts to strengthen the governance of indigenous governments that are responsive to local needs and oriented toward the sustainability of the nation's resources. Thus, the enactment of this regulation is not only intended as an administrative tool but also as part of efforts to strengthen indigenous governance that is responsive to local needs and oriented toward the sustainability of national resources. This argument is in line with what Lutz and Linder stated: that traditional structures remain crucial in regulating community life at the local level despite the existence of modern state structures. Traditional authorities, for example, regulate village life, control access to land, and resolve disputes (Lutz & Linder, 2004).

The drafting of the Oma Regional Regulation was carried out collaboratively by involving a drafting team formed based on a Decree (SK) of the Head of the Oma Regional Government (Figure 3). After the drafting team was officially formed, the Community Service (PkM) team held a follow-up meeting with the drafting team, community leaders, and elements of the Oma Regional Government to discuss the substance of the draft Regional Regulation on Natural Resource Protection, including fishery resources. The meeting was held on May 9, 2025, at the Oma Village meeting room as part of efforts to refine and finalize the content of the regulation to be enacted.



Figure 3 Meeting to draft a State Regulation

The meeting resulted in a draft Oma Regional Regulation on the protection and management of natural resources, which was developed in a participatory and responsive manner, taking into account the real needs of the community and the characteristics of local wisdom that exist within the traditional governance system of Oma. This draft regulation not only contains norms for the protection of natural resources but also regulates aspects of sustainable management, based on the principles of prudence, environmental sustainability, and the collective responsibility of the customary law community ([Alkadafi, Susanti, Wasistiono, & Broto, 2025](#)). Furthermore, the draft will enter the next stage, namely the process of further discussion and enactment of the regional regulation through a deliberative mechanism involving all stakeholders in Negeri Oma. Including the regional government, BPN, traditional leaders, community leaders, and the wider community to ensure the social and legal legitimacy of the regulation to be enacted.

Participants' Pre-Post Test Results

Prior to delivering instruction on the importance of improving the customary government system, the Community Service (PkM) team administered a pre-test to the participants, who included Oma Government workers and many community leaders. This activity sought to determine the participants' initial level of knowledge on natural resource protection and management through legal institutions. The pretest included five short-answer questions approved by professionals.

Based on the results of the pre-test shown in Figure 4, it is known that most participants have a very low level of understanding of the material to be delivered, with an average score of 22.67. These results are in line with Sugiyono (2019), who states that pre-tests are used to determine initial abilities, level of mastery of the material, and readiness of participants before learning interventions are given. The low pre-test scores indicate that participants do not yet have an adequate conceptual understanding of the material on the protection and management of natural resources through legal institutions, making the implementation of educational interventions relevant and necessary.

Furthermore, Bloom, in his taxonomy of educational objectives, explains that prior knowledge is at the basic cognitive level and greatly determines the effectiveness of the subsequent learning process ([Bloom, 1956](#); [Eisner, 2000](#)). If participants' prior knowledge is low, a systematic concept reinforcement strategy is needed to improve understanding. In the context of natural resource protection and management through customary law institutions, this condition is also in line with Ostrom's (1990) findings, which emphasize that the effectiveness of local institution-based resource management is highly dependent on the level of understanding and awareness of local actors regarding the applicable rules

and norms. Thus, the pre-test results show that the participants' prior knowledge is very low. Hence, it is crucial to conduct educational activities through socialization as an effort to improve customary law literacy and strengthen the customary government system in natural resource management in Negeri Oma.

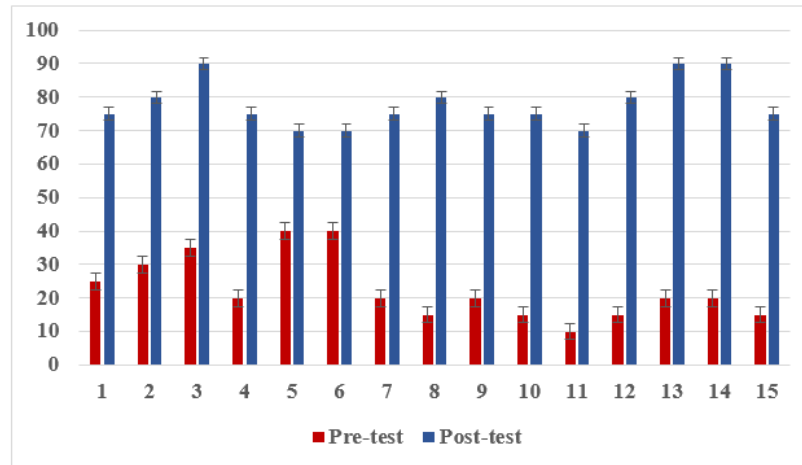


Figure 4 Participants' pre-test and post-test results

In addition, education on natural resource protection and management was provided through legal institutions in the form of counselling with related material content. Including an introduction to the status of the village, the importance of maintaining the status of the village, and the risks and impacts of natural resource protection and management issues, as well as tips and tricks for protecting and managing existing natural resources.

This community service activity received a very positive response from the participants. This was reflected in the enthusiasm of the participants in attending the entire series of outreach activities. During the question-and-answer and discussion sessions, participants actively asked questions and shared their views and experiences regarding legal requirements, the status of the country, and the protection and management of natural resources. This situation demonstrates the community's interest and initial awareness of the importance of strengthening the customary government system as a legal basis for the sustainable management of natural resources.

Following the dissemination and discussion activities, the PkM team conducted a final test evaluation to measure changes in participants' knowledge levels. The results of the post-test obtained by the participants are shown in Figure 4. These results indicate an increase in the participants' knowledge level in all indicators measured. This increase indicates that the treatment in the form of socialization using the counselling and discussion methods was able to increase the participants' knowledge about the protection and management of natural resources through customary law institutions. Thus, this activity made a real contribution to improving the legal literacy of the community in Negeri Oma.

The increase in post-test scores is in line with learning evaluation theory, which states that post-tests serve to assess the effectiveness of an educational intervention after participants have received a specific treatment. Creswell et al. emphasize that comparisons between pre-tests and post-tests can be used to demonstrate changes in knowledge or attitudes as a result of a program (Creswell & Clark, 2017). In the context of this activity, the increase in post-test scores reflects the success of the outreach program in transferring knowledge and improving participants' understanding of legal and customary institutional aspects.

Furthermore, improved post-test results show that participatory extension methods combined with interactive discussions are effective in improving community understanding. This is in line with the opinion of Fraenkel and Wallen, who state that discussion-based learning can encourage active participant involvement, thereby strengthening conceptual understanding. The active involvement of the community in this activity also plays an important role in building collective awareness of the importance of sustainable protection and management of natural resources ([Fraenkel & Wallen, 1990](#)).

The increase in community knowledge as reflected in the post-test results is an important social capital in strengthening the customary governance system. Adequate knowledge of customary legal institutions enables communities to play a more active role in protecting natural resources and enforcing applicable rules. This finding is in line with Ostrom's view that the success of community-based natural resource management is largely determined by the level of understanding, awareness, and participation of local communities in the rules and institutions that govern them.

CONCLUSION

Community service activities in the context of disseminating information about the traditional governance system in Negeri Oma regarding the protection and management of natural resources received a very positive response from the local government and community. The meeting, initiated by the PkM team, successfully identified a very important need for the people of Negeri Oma, namely the absence of local regulations related to the protection and management of natural resources. This encouraged the emergence of local initiatives to formulate local regulations as part of strengthening the traditional governance system. The results of the socialization, which used the Participatory Action Research (PAR) and socialization method, showed an increase in the knowledge and understanding of the participants, resulting in the drafting of a Village Regulation on the protection and management of natural resources. This regulation is highly appropriate to the community's needs in preserving, protecting, and managing natural resources, as well as supporting the traditional governance system in the sustainable management of natural resources based on local wisdom.

It is recommended that the Oma Local Government continue the process of discussing and finalizing the draft local regulation on the protection and management of natural resources by involving all stakeholders and the wider community so that the resulting regulation has strong social legitimacy and can be implemented effectively. In addition, follow-up assistance and ongoing education are needed for state government officials and the community to strengthen their understanding of the implementation of the state regulations that have been drafted. This assistance is important so that the strengthening of the customary government system does not stop at the stage of drafting regulations but continues into the practice of natural resource management that is lawful, participatory, and sustainable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

Conceptualization, SYS and AM; methodology, SYS; formal analysis, SYS, AM and SAM; investigation, SYS and AM; resources, SYS and AM; data curation, AM; writing—original draft preparation, SYS; writing—review and editing, SYS and AM.; supervision, AM; project administration, SYS; funding acquisition, SYS.

AI DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The authors used ChatGPT (OpenAI) only for drawing and light editing of the manuscript. After using the tool, the authors reviewed, revised, and edited the content again to ensure accuracy and coherence. The authors are fully responsible for the final content of this article. The results, data analysis, and discussion presented in this article were conducted without the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the Institute for Research and Community Service, Maluku Christian University, for providing financial assistance in carrying out community service activities in Negeri Oma, Central Maluku Regency.

REFERENCES

- Alfons, S. S., Soplanit, M., & Bakarbesy, A. D. (2024). Penyelenggaraan urusan pemerintahan daerah berciri kepulauan (Kajian terhadap pelayanan administrasi kependudukan di kabupaten maluku tengah). *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, 6(1), 18-34.
- Alkadafi, M., Susanti, S., Wasistiono, S., & Broto, M. F. (2025). Hybrid and collaborative governance model for village development in indonesia. *Jurnal Administrasi Publik (Public Administration Journal)*, 15(2), 209-228.
- Bloom, B. S. (1956). Taxonomy of. *Educational Objectives*, 250(2025), 3.
- Bunga, M. (2020). Model pembentukan peraturan daerah yang ideal dalam penyelenggaraan otonomi daerah. *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan*, 49(4), 818-833.
- Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*: Sage publications.
- Eisner, E. W. (2000). Benjamin Bloom: 1913–99: Springer.
- Fraenkel, J. R., & Wallen, N. E. (1990). *How to design and evaluate research in education*: ERIC.
- Hung, P.-Y. (2025). Bordered-in, Bordered-out, and overlapping territorialities in ocean space: the case of fisheries *Ocean Governance (Beyond) Borders* (pp. 75-98): Springer.
- Kholik, S., Suhendar, S., Siregar, S. B., Alam, K., & Noventi, D. (2023). Fungsi Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Dalam Pembentukan Produk Hukum Desa Dihubungkan Dengan Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 Tentang Desa. *Yustitia*, 9(2).
- Lutz, G., & Linder, W. (2004). Traditional structures in local governance for local development. *Berne, Switzerland*.
- Matuankotta, J. K. (2020). Pengakuan dan perlindungan hukum terhadap eksistensi pemerintahan Adat. *Sasi*, 26(2), 188-200.
- Primawardani, Y. (2017). Perlindungan hak masyarakat adat dalam melakukan aktivitas ekonomi, sosial dan budaya di provinsi maluku. *Jurnal HAM*, 8(1), 1-11.
- Rahmat, A., & Mirnawati, M. (2020). Model participation action research dalam pemberdayaan masyarakat. *Aksara: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan Nonformal*, 6(1), 62-71.
- Rubi, R., Maulana, M. C. R., Yulrisnanda, M. F., Saripudin, A., & Syamsudin, S. (2024). Dinamika hukum dalam pengaturan masyarakat hukum adat ditinjau dari sistem hukum nasional. *Iuris Studia: Jurnal Kajian Hukum*, 5(3), 861-869.
- Situmorang, D. M. (2016). Revitalisasi sistem pemerintahan desa dalam perspektif undang-undang No. 6 Tahun 2014 tentang desa di provinsi Sumatera Barat. *Jurnal HAM*, 7(1), 21-34.
- Sumaya, P. S. (2026). Hukum adat sebagai sumber hukum di indonesia: kajian historis dan kontemporer. *Journal of Law Review*, 5(1), 26-37.

- Tanihatu, M., Tahalele, M., Talahatu, I., Simarmata, R., & Sutiksno, D. (2021). Kajian dan desain tourism marketing di Negeri Oma: profil dan pemetaan. *MIX: Jurnal Ilmiah Manajemen*, 11(3), 412-426.
- Wance, M., Muhtar, M., & Kaliky, P. I. (2020). PKM penyelenggaraan pemerintahan dalam perencanaan pembangunan negeri hila kabupaten maluku tengah. *CARADDE: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, 2(2), 229-338.
- Wijayanto, R., Dewi, S. A. K., & Iswahyudi, G. (2022). Pemerintahan desa dalam karakteristik otonomi desa di sistem negara kesatuan republik indonesia. *AL-MANHAJ: Jurnal Hukum dan Pranata Sosial Islam*, 4(2), 365-374.

AUTHOR PROFILES



Dr. Sostones Y. Sisinaru, S.H., M.Hum

sostonessisinaru08@gmail.com

Affiliation : Department of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law,
Indonesian Christian University of Maluku, Indonesia

Expertise : State Administration and Indigenous Government Law
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=vl0GVB0AAAAJ>
<https://sinta.kemdiktisaintek.go.id/authors/profile/6945503>

Scopus ID : 57977071800



Alfian Makaruku, S.H., M.H

alfianmakaruku@gmail.com

Affiliation : Department of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law,
Indonesian Christian University of Maluku, Indonesia

Expertise : State Administration
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=1DoJw_IAAAAJ
<https://sinta.kemdiktisaintek.go.id/authors/profile/6806887>