

Institutional Synergy and Maritime Domain Awareness in Indonesia: A Document-Based Analysis of BAKAMLA, KPLP, and POLAIRUD in Preventing Natural Resource Exploitation at Karimun Besar Waters

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Abstract

Indonesia's maritime governance faces persistent challenges due to overlapping authorities and fragmented coordination among its main maritime enforcement agencies: BAKAMLA, KPLP, and POLAIRUD. This study aims to analyze the institutional synergy among these agencies in preventing the exploitation of natural resources in the strategic waters of Karimun Besar. Using a qualitative descriptive method with document analysis and triangulation, this research examines legal documents (Law No. 32/2014, Presidential Regulation No. 178/2014, Government Regulation No. 5/2020), institutional reports, and academic literature. The results show that interagency synergy remains suboptimal due to inconsistencies in legal mandates, overlapping jurisdiction, and weak technological integration for data sharing. The study proposes the establishment of a National Maritime Security Coordination Framework supported by an integrated Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) system to strengthen surveillance and coordination. Policy recommendations include the standardization of joint patrol SOPs, the development of an interagency data-sharing platform, and the creation of a Joint Maritime Operation Center (JMOC) in strategic areas such as Karimun Besar. Strengthening institutional collaboration and data integration is essential for achieving effective maritime domain awareness and realizing Indonesia's vision as a Global Maritime Fulcrum.



Keywords: Maritime Security; Institutional Synergy; BAKAMLA; KPLP; POLAIRUD; Document Analysis; Maritime Domain Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's geographical identity as an archipelagic state makes maritime security a fundamental pillar of its national defense and sovereignty. With over 17,000 islands and extensive sea borders connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Indonesia stands as a critical node in global maritime trade routes. One of the most strategic maritime areas is Karimun Besar Island, located in the Malacca Strait, one of the busiest and most vital shipping lanes in the world. This region not only contributes to Indonesia's economic and geopolitical significance but also faces persistent maritime threats such as smuggling, illegal fishing, and natural resource exploitation. These non-traditional security challenges create multidimensional impacts—economic, environmental, and political—demanding a stronger and more integrated maritime governance structure.

Institutional synergy among Indonesia's key maritime security agencies—the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (BAKAMLA), the Sea and Coast Guard Unit (KPLP), and the Water and Air Police (POLAIRUD)—is crucial to ensure effective maritime surveillance and enforcement. However, in practice, overlapping jurisdictions, fragmented operational authority, and limited interoperability of surveillance systems have reduced efficiency in maritime law enforcement. Although BAKAMLA serves as the national coordinator for maritime security, KPLP focuses on navigation safety, and POLAIRUD handles law enforcement at sea, their mandates often intersect without clear coordination mechanisms. This structural fragmentation weakens Indonesia's capacity to maintain maritime domain awareness and detect illegal exploitation of natural resources, particularly in border areas such as Karimun Besar.

This research addresses these institutional challenges by employing document-based analysis and triangulation to examine how coordination, legal authority, and operational integration among BAKAMLA, KPLP, and POLAIRUD are represented in official documents and policies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study applies a qualitative descriptive design using document analysis and triangulation. The qualitative approach enables an in-depth interpretation of institutional relationships within Indonesia's maritime governance. Data were classified into three document categories:



1. Legal Documents: Law No. 32/2014 on Marine Affairs; Presidential Regulation No. 178/2014 on BAKAMLA; Government Regulation No. 5/2020 on KPLP; and Chief of Police Regulations on POLAIRUD.
2. Institutional Documents: Strategic plans (Renstra), standard operating procedures (SOPs), patrol reports, and official press releases.
3. Academic and Media Documents: Peer-reviewed articles, Scopus-indexed journals, and government websites such as BAKAMLA.go.id and Kemenhub.go.id.

The analytical process followed Creswell's (2018) model of qualitative inquiry, comprising:

- Data reduction (filtering content relevant to mandates, coordination, and resources),
- Data display (arranging findings into a SWOT matrix),
- Triangulation (comparing data from legal, institutional, and academic sources), and
- Interpretation (synthesizing structural gaps and proposing strategies for synergy).M

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Legal Framework Analysis

Analysis of Law No. 32/2014, Presidential Regulation No. 178/2014, and Government Regulation No. 5/2020 reveals overlapping mandates among BAKAMLA, KPLP, and POLAIRUD. While BAKAMLA is designated as the national coordinator, KPLP and POLAIRUD maintain separate operational jurisdictions under different ministries. This legal overlap leads to duplication and inefficiency, confirming Beckman's (2019) observation of fragmented maritime law enforcement structures in Indonesia.

2. Operational Analysis

Institutional reports show that each agency uses different surveillance systems: BAKAMLA relies on the Maritime Security Information System (MSIS), while KPLP and POLAIRUD operate separate networks. These incompatible systems hinder interoperability, causing redundant patrols and limited situational awareness. Despite some joint patrol initiatives, coordination remains ad hoc and lacks institutional continuity.

3. Triangulation Findings

Document triangulation confirms inconsistencies between legal mandates and operational realities. Although BAKAMLA is legally tasked as the coordinator, both KPLP and POLAIRUD continue to act independently under their parent institutions. This tension undermines unified



command and reduces collective responsiveness against illegal maritime activities—findings consistent with Laksamana (2022) and Sitorus & Said (2023).

4. SWOT Matrix

The SWOT analysis summarizes internal and external dynamics affecting maritime institutional synergy:

Strengths	Weaknesses
Established MDA network (BAKAMLA); strong field enforcement capacity (POLAIRUD)	Overlapping operations; lack of data interoperability
Opportunities	Threats
Digital transformation; Indonesia's ReCAAP participation; Global Maritime Fulcrum policy	Illegal fishing, smuggling; absence of unified command

5. Strategic Implications

Following Popescu & Gasparotti (2022) and Yuniarto et al. (2019), this study applies a hybrid SWOT–AHP lens to identify priority strategies. The most effective model proposed is a Unified Command System led by BAKAMLA, integrating civil (KPLP) and enforcement (POLAIRUD) roles. This model promotes real-time data exchange, standardizes joint patrol procedures, and enhances interoperability—key to strengthening Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and achieving the Global Maritime Fulcrum vision.

CONCLUSION

The research concludes that synergy among BAKAMLA, KPLP, and POLAIRUD remains suboptimal due to inconsistent legal mandates, fragmented operations, and weak ICT integration. Although each agency contributes significantly to maritime security, the absence of a unified coordination mechanism limits effectiveness.

To address this, a National Maritime Security Coordination Framework based on integrated data sharing is essential. The study recommends:

1. Integrating MDA systems across agencies for real-time information exchange;
2. Standardizing interagency SOPs for patrol and investigation; and
3. Establishing Joint Maritime Operation Centers (JMOC) in strategic areas such as Karimun Besar.

Through these measures, Indonesia can strengthen institutional collaboration, enhance



maritime surveillance, and advance its ambition to become a Global Maritime Fulcrum nation.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
AHP	Analytic Hierarchy Process
BAKAMLA	Indonesian Maritime Security Agency
JMOC	Joint Maritime Operation Center
KPLP	Sea and Coast Guard Unit
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
POLAIRUD	Water and Air Police
GMF	Global Maritime Fulcrum
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UU	Law

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