

# Intelligence Strategies in Mitigating National Security Threats in the Land Sector

Muhamad Ilyas Ruhiyat<sup>1,a,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sekolah Tinggi Intelijen Negara, Bogor, Indonesia

<sup>a</sup>[muhamad.iruhiyat@atrbpn.go.id](mailto:muhamad.iruhiyat@atrbpn.go.id)

\*Corresponding author

## Article Info

Received: 26-May-2026

Revised: 15-June-2026

Accepted: 30-June-2026

## Keywords

Intelligence Strategy; Land Conflict;  
Land Governance; National Security

## Abstract

**Introduction:** Land issues in Indonesia have developed into national security threats affecting political, economic, social, defense, and environmental sectors. Land ownership conflicts, document forgery, illegal land occupation, land mafia practices, and vulnerabilities in electronic data security indicate that land problems are no longer limited to administrative matters, but have influenced national stability. Therefore, an intelligence strategy is needed to support the prevention and mitigation of threats in the land sector. **Methods:** This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach through interviews, literature reviews, and document analysis. Informants consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency, State Intelligence Agency, National Cyber and Crypto Agency, law enforcement institutions, and judicial institutions. Data were analyzed qualitatively with the assistance of Nvivo 12 Pro software. **Results:** The findings show that threats in the land sector are both tangible and latent. Tangible threats include document forgery, overlapping ownership claims, land conflicts, and the potential for violence, while latent threats involve unequal land ownership, declining public trust, land mafia practices, and cybersecurity threats. Intelligence strategies are implemented through investigation, security, and public engagement functions by utilizing data based monitoring, document verification, strengthening electronic system security, and interagency coordination. **Conclusion:** Land related issues have become national security threats that require strategic and integrated approaches. Intelligence strategies play an important role in supporting early detection, data protection, conflict mitigation, and strengthening national stability. The success of these strategies depends on the readiness of human resources, technological capacity, cybersecurity resilience, institutional integrity, and interagency coordination.

## 1. Introduction

Land is a strategic resource that carries economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions within Indonesian society. Beyond its value as an economic asset, land is closely related to identity, living space, and the sustainability of communities. Its high value frequently gives rise to complex and prolonged land related conflicts. Cases such as double certificates, overlapping ownership rights, document forgery, illegal land occupation, and conflicts among social groups indicate that land issues remain a serious concern in Indonesia. Susman (2021) explains that weak land information systems, overlapping claims of rights, and limited public participation in spatial planning are among the main factors triggering land conflicts. Pelawi (2025) also emphasizes that the lack of transparency in land administration and weak legal certainty increase the likelihood of agrarian disputes.

The development of land related problems demonstrates that these issues are no longer confined to administrative or civil law matters. Land conflicts have evolved into strategic issues capable of disrupting national stability. Based on Law Number 17 of 2011 concerning State Intelligence, threats are defined as any actions that may endanger national security and state interests. In practice, land conflicts can hinder development, slow investment, trigger social clashes, reduce public trust in the government, and create disturbances to public order and security (Maulidah et al., 2023). In certain cases, disputes involving state strategic assets and defense areas may also affect national defense functions.

Within the framework of national security studies, Buzan (1991) explain that threats emerge not only in the military sector but also in political, economic, social, and environmental sectors. This perspective is relevant to land related issues in Indonesia, which have multidimensional impacts. Furthermore, Gurr's (2011) relative deprivation theory explains that conflicts may arise from disparities between public expectations and actual conditions. Unequal land ownership, domination of agrarian resources by certain groups, and weak protection of community rights can generate feelings of injustice and encourage social conflict in the land sector.

Previous studies indicate that one of the primary causes of land conflicts in Indonesia is the weakness of land administration and land data management systems. Firdaus (2023) states that unintegrated and nontransparent land data increase the risks of manipulation and ownership conflicts. Permadi (2023) also highlights that weak supervision and overlapping ownership data make land related issues difficult to resolve effectively. Manual administrative systems that are still used in several land processes create opportunities for document forgery and land mafia practices. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency has introduced service transformation through electronic certificates, integrated databases, and electronic land services.

The utilization of technology in land governance is viewed as a strategic measure to improve public services while strengthening legal certainty over land ownership. Brodjonegoro (2024) explains that digitalization represents a transformation process that uses information technology to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government administration. In the land sector, electronic systems are believed to accelerate data verification, increase transparency, and minimize document manipulation. Wirdaniati (2022) states that electronic land certification can strengthen the validity of ownership documents and reduce the potential for conflict. Meanwhile, Subekti (2023) argues that technologies such as blockchain may provide stronger protection for land data security.

Despite offering various advantages, the transformation of land services also creates new challenges that must be anticipated. Cybercrime threats, risks of data leakage and manipulation, limited human resource capacity, and public resistance toward electronic certificates remain obstacles in the modernization process. Therefore, approaches that focus not only on administrative aspects but also on national security dimensions are required. In this context, intelligence strategies play an important role in supporting early detection of potential conflicts, strengthening land data security, and building public trust in electronic systems. Through the use of technology, data based monitoring, and interagency coordination, intelligence strategies are expected to become effective instruments in overcoming national security threats in the land sector in Indonesia.

## **2. Method**

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to examine intelligence strategies according to Lykke (1989) in addressing national security threats, as conceptualized by Buzan (1991), in the land sector in Indonesia. This approach was used to gain an in depth understanding of land related issues and the role of intelligence in preventing and mitigating potential threats.

Data collection was conducted through interviews, literature reviews, and document analysis. The collected data were then analyzed qualitatively through data reduction, categorization, and conclusion drawing. To support the analysis process, this study utilized Nvivo 12 Pro software to facilitate coding, theme identification, and mapping relationships among data, enabling a more systematic understanding of intelligence strategies in addressing national security threats in the land sector.

### 3. Results

This section discusses two main focuses of the study, namely national security threats in the land sector and intelligence strategies to address them. The discussion begins with an analysis of how land related issues have evolved into multidimensional threats affecting political, economic, social, defense, and environmental stability in Indonesia. Furthermore, this section explains the intelligence strategies implemented to support prevention, early detection, security measures, and mitigation of various potential threats in the land sector. By integrating national security and intelligence strategy perspectives, this discussion aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the importance of intelligence approaches in maintaining national stability through safer, more integrated, and more responsive land governance.

#### 3.1. National Security

The findings indicate that land related issues in Indonesia have evolved into multidimensional threats with direct implications for national security. Tangible threats were identified in the form of document forgery, overlapping ownership rights, illegal land occupation, and conflicts that may trigger physical violence among community groups or confrontations with state authorities. In the context of national security, these conditions may disrupt social stability, weaken public order, and increase the potential for both horizontal and vertical conflicts in various regions. In addition, land conflicts involving strategic areas, state assets, or defense zones may affect national defense and security functions.

The study also identified latent threats that are structural and long term in nature, including unequal land ownership, domination of agrarian resources by certain groups, land mafia practices, and the weakening of government legitimacy due to low legal certainty. These threats are further intensified by declining public trust in state institutions in resolving land related issues fairly and transparently. From a national security perspective, such conditions may trigger social resistance, mass mobilization, and greater vulnerability to conflicts driven by public dissatisfaction. Moreover, the development of electronic systems in land governance has introduced new threats in the form of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, digital data manipulation, and potential attacks on strategic national information infrastructure.

These findings demonstrate that land related issues can no longer be viewed merely as administrative problems, but have affected political, economic, social, defense, and environmental sectors as described in Buzan (1991) concept of sectoral security. In the political sector, land conflicts may reduce government legitimacy and public confidence in state policies. In the economic sector, uncertainty regarding land legality hinders investment and national development. In the social sector, land ownership disputes may trigger criminal acts and violence. Meanwhile, in the environmental sector, uncontrolled land exploitation may damage coastal areas, forests, and community living spaces. Therefore, land related threats have become part of broader national security threats that require strategic, integrated, and prevention oriented responses.

#### 3.2. Intelligence Strategy

The findings also reveal that intelligence strategies have been implemented through investigation, security, and public engagement functions. The investigation function is carried out through mapping conflict prone areas, document verification, and early identification of threat patterns. The security function focuses on protecting electronic data, strengthening cybersecurity, controlling system access, and auditing data changes to prevent manipulation. Meanwhile, the public engagement function is conducted through public education, increasing literacy regarding electronic services, and strengthening interagency coordination to enhance public trust in the national land system.

This study further found that intelligence strategies operate at three interconnected levels. At the national level, strategies are implemented through data integration policies, regulatory strengthening, and cybersecurity resilience development. At the operational level, implementation is carried out through interagency coordination, governance audits, and conflict potential mapping. At the technical level, strategies are realized through the use of monitoring applications, electronic data verification, digital audit trails, and information security technologies.

Based on the analysis using Lykke's (1989) strategic concept, the success of intelligence strategies depends on the balance between objectives, methods, and resources. The primary objectives include strengthening legal certainty, protecting data, enhancing social stability, and reinforcing national security. The methods employed consist of investigations, electronic system monitoring, cross sector coordination, and strengthening public communication. Meanwhile, the most critical resources determining the success of the strategy include the quality of human resources, technological infrastructure readiness, cybersecurity capacity, and the integrity of implementing institutions.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that land related issues in Indonesia have evolved into multidimensional national security threats affecting political, economic, social, defense, and environmental sectors. These threats appear in the form of document forgery, overlapping ownership claims, illegal land occupation, social conflicts, land mafia practices, and vulnerabilities in electronic data security. Such conditions not only disrupt legal certainty and public order, but also have the potential to weaken government legitimacy, hinder investment, and trigger social instability and national security disturbances.

The study also found that intelligence strategies play an important role in addressing threats in the land sector through investigation, security, and public engagement functions. These strategies are implemented through early detection of conflict prone areas, verification of data and documents, strengthening the security of electronic systems, data based monitoring, and improving interagency coordination. In addition, strengthening public communication and increasing public trust in land service systems are essential components in maintaining national stability.

The success of intelligence strategies is strongly influenced by the balance between objectives, methods, and resources. The readiness of human resources, technological capacity, cybersecurity resilience, institutional integrity, and regulatory support are key factors in supporting the effectiveness of these strategies. Therefore, integrated and adaptive intelligence approaches are required as strategic measures to maintain sustainable national security stability in the land sector.

#### References

- Buzan, B. (1991). *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era (2nd ed.)*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Firdaus. (2023). Returning the stolen land: The current settlement of the Senamanenek Kampar indigenous people with PT. Perkebunan Nusantara V. *Jambe Law Journal*, 6(2), 205–228. <https://doi.org/10.22437/home.v6i2.316>
- Gurr, T. R.. (2011). *Why Men Rebel*. Fortieth Anniversary Edition. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers.
- Kementerian Agraria dan Tata Ruang/ Badan Pertanahan Nasional. 2023. *Naskah Kajian Peraturan Menteri Agraria dan Tata Ruang/Kepala Badan Pertanahan Nasional Tentang Pendaftaran Tanah Berbasis Elektronik*.
- Lykke, A. F. Jr. (1989). Defining military strategy. *Military Review*, 69(5), 2–8. United States Army Command and General Staff College.
- Maulidah, F. F., Maulina, H., Alfiana, L., Dardiri, M. N., & Nurpratiwi, H. (2023). Sengketa tanah antara masyarakat dengan pemerintah (Studi kasus: Pembangunan Dinas PUPR di Jawa Timur). *Dewantara: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial Humaniora*, 2(2), 102–113. <https://doi.org/10.30640/dewantara.v2i2.1022>
- Pelawi, J. T. (2025). Restoring rights: Addressing land disputes and legal frameworks in Indonesia's plantation sector. *International Journal of Conservation Science*, 16(1), 357–370. <https://doi.org/10.36868/IJCS.2025.01.25>
- Permadi, I. (2023). Electronic title certificate as legal evidence: The land registration system and the quest for legal certainty in Indonesia. *Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review*, 20, 47–61.
- Sadino. (2024). Law study about confirmation of forest area towards legal certainty of forest area in Indonesia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 1407(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1407/1/012018>
- Subekti, R. (2023). The significance of blockchain implementation in the issuance of land e-certificates: Examples from Ghana and Germany. *Lex Localis*, 21(3), 665–682. [https://doi.org/10.4335/21.3.665-682\(2023\)](https://doi.org/10.4335/21.3.665-682(2023))

- Susman, R. (2021). Drivers of land use conflicts in infrastructural mega projects in coastal areas: A case study of Patimban Seaport, Indonesia. *Land*, 10(6). <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10060615>
- Wirdaniati, W. (2022). Model of legalization of land certification in rural areas and projection of the value of ownership benefits. *Jurnal Hukum Unissula*, 38(2), 122–137. <https://doi.org/10.26532/jh.v38i2.18480>