

RIISING SEA LEVELS PROMPT INDONESIA TO RELOCATE CAPITAL

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Degradation - GHGs, Ozone Depletion and Climate Change

An illustration of Indonesia's future presidential palace in jungle-clad island of Borneo.

Indonesia's parliament on Tuesday passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on the jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara".

The House of Representatives vote provides the legal framework for the move, which was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.

Home to more than 30 million people in its greater metro area, Jakarta has long been plagued by serious infrastructure problems and flooding exacerbated by climate change.

The new capital will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo.

Early plans for the new capital depict a utopian design aimed at creating an environmentally friendly "smart" city, but few details have been confirmed.

Environmentalists critics of the capital's move have warned it could damage ecosystems in the region.

Budget details have not yet been revealed in a presidential decree, though previous reports have pegged the project's costs at \$33 billion.

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