

LICS 2026

Topic: *Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Combating Human Trafficking and Enhancing Protection of Women and Children*

Cross-Border and Quarantine Enforcement in Protecting Women and Children from Trafficking

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Abstract. *This study aims to analyse how cross-border and quarantine enforcement can be strengthened to protect women and children from human trafficking in Indonesia, a country whose archipelagic geography makes its borders, ports, and remote crossings strategic for transnational organised crime. A normative legal method was employed, combining statutory, conceptual, and comparative approaches based on primary legal materials and peer-reviewed journals. The findings show that human trafficking frequently converges with the smuggling of migrants and the illegal trafficking of wildlife and biological resources, sharing the same routes, networks, and enforcement gaps at the border. Yet the agencies stationed at that frontier—immigration, customs, and the quarantine authority—operate in fragmented silos, so that vulnerable women and children move through the same checkpoints as illicit goods without being detected. Examined through the value of justice and the objectives of Islamic law—the preservation of life (ḥifẓ al-naḥs) and of the environment (ḥifẓ al-bīʿah)—the study concludes that an integrated, victim-centred border-management system, supported by transnational cooperation, would better protect women and children while also safeguarding the nation’s biological wealth.*

Keywords: *Enforcement; Human; Quarantine; Smuggling; Trafficking.*

1. Introduction

Human trafficking is a complex transnational organised crime that violates human rights and most often victimises women and children, who are recruited, transported, and exploited across jurisdictional boundaries (Ni Kadek Puspawati, 2025). As a serious offence that crosses borders, it cannot be addressed by domestic criminal law alone; it demands attention to the points at which people and goods physically move between states.

Indonesia has built its anti-trafficking framework upon the criminalisation contained in the Anti-

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Trafficking Law, which defines the offence and guarantees victims the right to protection and restitution (Article 2 of Law Number 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2007 Number 58). Nevertheless, the implementation of that framework is weakened at precisely the place where the crime enters and leaves the country: the border.

Because of its archipelagic geography, Indonesia sits astride major maritime and overland routes and serves as a country of origin, transit, and destination for the illegal movement of people; this same geography is exploited by smugglers who move migrants across poorly supervised crossings for profit (Satrio Bagus Wiyono, 2026). The distinction between trafficking and the smuggling of migrants is legally important, yet in practice the two overlap, and victims of trafficking are frequently moved under the guise of irregular migration.

The borders that traffickers exploit are the same borders through which other illicit flows pass. The illegal trafficking of protected wildlife and biological resources is likewise an organised, increasingly transnational enterprise that threatens Indonesia's biodiversity and relies on the same ports, vessels, and concealment techniques (Dodi Jaya Wardana, 2024). The convergence of these flows is significant for enforcement: a checkpoint that can detect a smuggled animal can, with the right mandate and training, also detect a trafficked person.

At that frontier stands an institution rarely discussed in the trafficking literature: the quarantine authority. The Quarantine Law positions the quarantine service as a frontline agency supervising the cross-border movement of animals, fish, and plants, with investigative powers vested in its civil-servant investigators (Article 1 and Article 81 of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2019 Number 201. See further Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 on the Implementing Regulation of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, and Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023). This frontline presence places the quarantine apparatus, alongside immigration and customs, in a strategic position within any integrated effort to combat trafficking. More precisely, the quarantine apparatus addressed in this study is Badan Karantina Hewan dan Tumbuhan, the authority responsible for animal, fish, and plant quarantine and biosecurity under the Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine Law as implemented by Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 and Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023, whose frontline presence at the points of entry positions it to contribute to anti-trafficking enforcement through the convergence of routes and the transferability of its inspection and investigative capacities.

These concerns are not only secular but also moral. The objectives of Islamic law include the

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preservation of life and, in their contemporary expansion, the preservation of the environment, so that the protection of vulnerable people and the protection of nature are understood as a single, integrated duty (Muhamad Nurholis, 2025). Framing border enforcement through this lens reinforces the obligation of the state to shield both its people and its natural wealth from exploitation.

The originality of this study lies in approaching human trafficking from the vantage point of the border and the quarantine apparatus rather than from the more familiar perspectives of substantive criminal law or victim rehabilitation alone. By treating trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, and the illegal movement of wildlife as convergent flows that share the same frontier, the study connects an apparatus usually associated with biosecurity to the protection of women and children, and it does so on a foundation that is at once constitutional, normative, and grounded in the objectives of Islamic law.

Based on the foregoing, this study aims to analyse how cross-border and quarantine enforcement—understood as an integrated, inter-agency system—can be strengthened to protect women and children from human trafficking, taking account of its convergence with the smuggling of migrants and of wildlife, and grounding the analysis in the value of justice and the objectives of Islamic law.

2. Research Methods

This study uses the normative juridical method, examining legal norms, principles, and doctrines relevant to the protection of women and children from human trafficking at the border (Peter Mahmud Marzuki, 2017). It applies a statutory approach to the relevant laws, a conceptual approach to the notions of trafficking, smuggling, and integrated border management, and a comparative approach to draw lessons for institutional design. Because enforcement depends not only on the text of the law but on the institutions and officials who apply it, the analysis is also informed by the established understanding that the effectiveness of law enforcement is shaped by the law itself, the enforcers, the facilities, the community, and the legal culture (Soerjono Soekanto, 2019). Primary legal materials consist of the relevant statutes and ratified international instruments; secondary materials consist of peer-reviewed journal articles and authoritative legal literature.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Human Trafficking as Transnational Organised Crime and the Border Dimension

Human trafficking is classified as a form of transnational organised crime because it is

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committed by structured networks, generates illicit profit, and operates across national boundaries. Indonesia has adopted many elements of the international framework, including the definition of trafficking, the protection of victims, and the aggravation of penalties, yet implementation still faces weak enforcement, limited inter-agency coordination, and constrained resources, especially in border-prone regions.

These weaknesses are felt most acutely at the periphery of the state. The same study notes that trafficking thrives where supervision is thin and where coordination between agencies is poor, recommending stronger enforcement capacity and more effective monitoring in regions prone to trafficking. The border, in other words, is not merely a line on a map but the operational front line of the entire anti-trafficking effort.

The international architecture recognises this. Indonesia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the principal instrument obliging states to criminalise organised crime and to cooperate across borders (Law Number 5 of 2009 on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2009 Number 59), as well as the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants, which specifically addresses the illegal movement of persons across borders for profit (Law Number 14 of 2009 on the Ratification of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2009 Number 53).

The smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of persons are legally distinct—the former is, in principle, a crime against the state's border integrity, the latter a crime against the person—but the boundary between them is porous. Many who begin as smuggled migrants end as trafficking victims once debt, coercion, or deception converts their irregular journey into exploitation, which is why the immigration function is central to detecting trafficking at the border.

The geography of Indonesia magnifies this porousness. Thousands of islands, long and lightly patrolled coastlines, and numerous unofficial crossings give organised networks an abundance of routes, while the country's role as origin, transit, and destination means that a single victim may traverse several jurisdictions before reaching the place of exploitation. Each transit point is an opportunity for interception, but only if the agency present at that point is equipped, mandated, and connected to the others.

The constitutional foundation reinforces this duty. The state is obliged to protect every citizen and to defend human dignity against slavery and exploitation, an obligation that the Anti-

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Trafficking Law translates into concrete prohibitions and victim entitlements (The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 28I paragraph (1); and Law Number 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2007 Number 58). Where that duty is to be discharged in practice, it is discharged first at the border, and its effectiveness there determines whether the broader framework succeeds or fails.

Regional cooperation is indispensable to this border dimension. Because trafficking and smuggling networks operate across the porous frontiers of Southeast Asia, no single state can interdict them alone; mutual legal assistance, extradition arrangements, and coordinated law-enforcement contacts are necessary to follow networks that deliberately exploit the seams between jurisdictions. Indonesia's ratification of the transnational-crime convention provides the treaty basis for such cooperation, but treaties operate only as well as the operational channels that implement them.

The legal characterisation of the conduct also matters for enforcement at the frontier. Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons attract different charges and different protective duties, and an officer who cannot tell them apart may either under-protect a victim or over-criminalise a migrant; clarity about these categories is therefore a precondition of just border enforcement.

3.2. Convergence with the Smuggling of Wildlife and Biological Resources

Indonesia's borders carry not only the illegal movement of people but also a substantial illegal trade in protected wildlife. This trade is increasingly organised and transnational, exploiting the archipelago's many exit points and the difficulty of proving such offences in court.

The same analysis observes that the prohibition on transporting and trading protected species, and the criminal sanctions attached to it, are frequently evaded through concealment and weak documentation at points of departure—precisely the vulnerabilities that traffickers in persons also exploit. The conservation framework prohibits the unlicensed capture, possession, and transport of protected animals.²¹

At the international level, the trade in endangered species is governed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, to which Indonesia is a party, reinforcing the obligation to control cross-border movement of biological resources.²² The convergence is therefore not merely thematic but operational: the routes, the carriers, and the enforcement blind spots overlap, so that strengthening detection of one illicit flow

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strengthens detection of the other.

This convergence is the analytical bridge that allows the expertise of the quarantine and conservation sector to be applied to the protection of human Article 21 paragraph (2) of Law Number 5 of 1990 on the Conservation of Living Natural Resources and Their Ecosystems, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 1990 Number 49, as amended by Law Number 32 of 2024, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2024 Number 195. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of 1973, ratified by Presidential Decree Number 43 of 1978. beings. An officer trained to read manifests, inspect cargo, and recognise concealment in the wildlife context possesses skills directly transferable to the recognition of trafficking indicators, provided the legal mandate and inter-agency referral channels exist.

International experience and national data alike suggest that organised wildlife trafficking does not operate in isolation from other illicit markets; the networks that move protected species often diversify into other contraband, and the corruption and concealment that enable one trade enable the others. For an archipelagic state, the maritime dimension is especially acute, because fishing vessels and cargo ships that carry smuggled fauna can also carry smuggled and trafficked persons, and the documentary controls applied to one cargo are precisely those that could expose the other.

The environmental dimension is not merely contextual; it is itself a protected legal interest. The framework on environmental protection and management establishes the duty to preserve ecological functions and to prevent the degradation of natural resources, situating the control of biological-resource trafficking within a broader public-law obligation (Article 3 of Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2009 Number 140). Reading trafficking and biological-resource smuggling together therefore unites two strands of public law—the protection of persons and the protection of nature—around the single chokepoint of the border.

The maritime sector sharpens the convergence further. Indonesia's fisheries and shipping lanes are known sites of forced labour and human trafficking, where crews are recruited deceptively and held in conditions of debt bondage far from any port of refuge; the same vessels and the same lax documentation that allow protected marine species to be smuggled also conceal the exploitation of human beings at sea. Port-state control, vessel inspection, and the verification of crew documents are therefore simultaneously instruments of conservation and instruments of human protection.

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This is why the analytical move from wildlife to human protection is more than rhetorical. The competencies of officers who interdict biological-resource smuggling—cargo inspection, document verification, risk profiling, and the patient construction of evidence for difficult cross-border cases—map directly onto the detection of trafficking, so that investment in one capability yields a dividend in the other.

3.3. Quarantine and Immigration within an Integrated Border-Management System

At Indonesia's ports, airports, and land-border posts, frontline inspection is organised around the functions of customs, immigration, and quarantine. The institution that is the focus of this study is *Badan Karantina Hewan dan Tumbuhan*, the body responsible for animal, fish, and plant quarantine and biosecurity, which exercises its mandate under the Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine Law as implemented by Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 and Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023, the latter integrating the formerly separate agricultural, fish, and plant-quarantine bodies into a single authority organised into distinct deputies for animal, for fish, and for plant quarantine (Article 81 and Article 82 of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2019 Number 201, as implemented by Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 on the Implementing Regulation of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine and by Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023). Although its mandate centres on animals, fish, plants, and biosecurity rather than on the direct screening of persons, *Badan Karantina Hewan dan Tumbuhan* maintains a permanent, technically equipped frontline presence at the very crossings that traffickers exploit; the inspection, documentary-control, and investigative capacities of its officers, together with the convergence of trafficking routes with the illegal movement of wildlife and biological resources, make it a strategic partner in an integrated, victim-centred border-management system, provided that clear inter-agency referral channels to immigration, the police, and the protection authorities are formalised.

The quarantine authority is a permanent, technically equipped presence at the nation's ports and crossings. Its mandate to supervise the cross-border traffic of animals, fish, and plants, and to investigate violations through its civil-servant investigators, makes it a natural partner in an integrated border-management system (Article 81 and Article 82 of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2019 Number 201. See further Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 on the Implementing Regulation of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, and Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023). Integrated border management treats the border not as a series of disconnected checkpoints but as a single system in which agencies share information,

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coordinate operations, and refer cases to one another.

Immigration occupies the complementary role of regulating the movement of persons. The Immigration Law expressly criminalises the smuggling of migrants and vests immigration officers with administrative and pro justitia authority, yet enforcement is hampered by limited supervision of border areas, weak inter-agency coordination, and increasingly sophisticated modes of operation.

The Immigration Law's criminal provision on people smuggling supplies the legal hook for action at the border, but a hook is only as strong as the hand that holds it (Article 120 of Law Number 6 of 2011 on Immigration, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2011 Number 52). Where immigration, customs, and quarantine officers operate in silos, a trafficking victim may pass three checkpoints without any single officer holding both the information and the mandate to intervene.

The remedy is coordination. The literature on trafficking enforcement consistently identifies weak inter-agency cooperation as a core obstacle and recommends integrated monitoring and shared capacity, particularly in trafficking-prone border regions. Building joint protocols among immigration, customs, quarantine, the police, and the agency for the protection of witnesses and victims would convert isolated checkpoints into a coherent protective net.

Integrated border management is now a widely accepted model precisely because no single agency can see the whole picture. Customs sees goods, immigration sees persons, and quarantine sees biological cargo; only when these partial views are combined does a coherent risk profile emerge. A vessel flagged by quarantine for a suspicious animal shipment may be the same vessel that immigration should examine for undocumented passengers. Information-sharing converts three partial gazes into one.

The quarantine service's civil-servant investigators are a particular asset in this design. Their statutory authority to inspect, to gather evidence, and to commence investigation gives them a lawful foothold at the border that, when paired with referral protocols to the police and immigration, allows suspected trafficking to be escalated to the competent authority without the quarantine officer overstepping the bounds of the quarantine mandate (Article 81 of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2019 Number 201). The legal architecture for cooperation thus already exists in outline; what is missing is its operational integration.

Customs completes the triad at the border. Tasked with the control of goods, customs holds

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cargo manifests, container data, and risk indicators that, when shared, can corroborate the suspicions of immigration and quarantine; a shipment flagged for a concealed animal or for falsified documents is also a candidate for inspection for concealed persons. The value of each agency's data multiplies when it is pooled, which is the essential logic of integrated border management.

The obstacle is rarely the absence of legal authority and more often the absence of habit, protocol, and trust among agencies that have long worked apart. Effective enforcement depends not only on the rule but on the enforcers and the culture in which they operate, so that building routines of joint operation is as important as drafting the mandate itself.

3.4. Protecting Women and Children Through Victim-Centred Enforcement

Border enforcement must be victim-centred, not merely interdiction-focused. Women and children intercepted at the border are frequently victims rather than offenders, and the law obliges the state to protect them. The child-protection framework guarantees children special protection from exploitation and trafficking (Article 59 and Article 66 of Law Number 35 of 2014 on the Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2014 Number 297), while the law on sexual-violence offences strengthens protection for women who are trafficked into sexual exploitation (Law Number 12 of 2022 on the Crime of Sexual Violence, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2022 Number 120).

A victim-centred approach requires that officers at the border be trained to identify indicators of trafficking, to treat intercepted persons as potential victims, and to refer them to protection rather than to detention or deportation. Otherwise the very enforcement intended to protect them may compound their harm.

Restitution is the final element of victim protection. The Anti-Trafficking Law guarantees victims the right to restitution for the suffering they have endured, and effective border enforcement—by identifying victims early and preserving evidence and assets—lays the groundwork for that right to be realized (Article 48 of Law Number 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2007 Number 58). Protection that begins at the border and continues through restitution gives substance to the state's constitutional duty to defend the dignity of every person. The legal scholarship on trafficking in Indonesia likewise stresses that the protection of victims—encompassing prevention, handling, recovery, and restitution—forms an inseparable part of the anti-trafficking framework, so that enforcement at the border and victim protection after it cannot

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be treated as separate concerns (Farhana, 2010).

The vulnerability of women and children is not incidental but structural. Gender inequality, poverty, and forced migration are the vectors that networks exploit, and children in particular are entitled under the child-protection framework to special protection and to recovery measures when they are victimized (Article 59 paragraph (2) and Article 64 of Law Number 35 of 2014 on the Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2014 Number 297). Enforcement at the border that ignores this structural vulnerability risks treating victims as offenders, deporting the trafficked rather than rescuing them.

A trauma-informed, victim-centred posture is therefore essential. Officers must be trained to ask why a woman or child is travelling, to recognise the indicators of coercion and debt bondage, and to channel suspected victims into protection and, ultimately, restitution, rather than into the machinery of immigration penalties. The same financial and evidentiary diligence that supports prosecution also supports the victim's claim to restitution, so that protection at the border and redress after it form a continuous chain.

Protection does not end at interception. A victim identified at the border must be connected to rehabilitation, social reintegration, and the legal process through which restitution is claimed; the law on sexual-violence offences and the child-protection framework together oblige the state to provide recovery and to centre the victim in the proceedings that follow (Article 67 of Law Number 12 of 2022 on the Crime of Sexual Violence, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2022 Number 120). Border enforcement that is integrated with these downstream protections turns a moment of interception into the beginning of recovery rather than a dead end.

The credibility of the whole system before the public and before victims depends on this continuity. If women and children learn that coming forward at the border leads to protection and redress rather than to detention, cooperation increases and networks lose the silence on which they depend; the international framework that Indonesia has adopted points in exactly this victim-centred direction.⁴⁵

3.5. *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah: ḥifẓ al-Nafs, ḥifẓ al-Bī'ah, and the Prohibition of Fasād fī al-Arḍ*

The protection of vulnerable people and the protection of nature converge within the objectives of Islamic law. The preservation of life (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*) is among the five essential values of the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, and its contemporary expansion encompasses the preservation of the

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environment (*ḥifẓ al-bī'ah*), so that safeguarding human dignity and safeguarding the biosphere are understood as a single ethical obligation. Read through a systems approach to the *maqāṣid*, in which the higher objectives are treated as an integrated whole rather than as isolated rules, the protection of human life and the protection of the natural order appear as mutually reinforcing ends of a single legal purpose (Asser Auda, 2008).

Read in this light, both human trafficking and the plunder of biological resources are forms of corruption on earth (*fasād fī al-arḍ*), conduct that Islamic law condemns because it destroys life, lineage, and the natural order that sustains them. The same source argues that the responsible stewardship of natural resources is itself a dimension of the objectives of the law and of intergenerational justice.

This framing gives the work of the border officer a moral weight beyond the administrative. To intercept a trafficked child and to intercept a smuggled endangered species are, in this view, two expressions of one duty: to repel corruption and to preserve the sanctity of life and of the created order. For an Islamic university and a Muslim-majority state, this convergence supplies a powerful normative foundation for integrated enforcement.

This integrated reading also resonates with the maxim that the prevention of harm takes precedence over the pursuit of benefit. Where the movement of a person or a species across the border carries the risk of grave and irreversible harm—enslavement, exploitation, extinction—the law's protective vigilance is not an optional courtesy but a duty rooted in the very purpose of the *sharī'ah*. The border officer who prevents such harm acts, on this view, as a guardian of both *ḥifẓ al-naḥs* and *ḥifẓ al-bī'ah*, and the integration of agencies becomes a means of fulfilling a shared moral as well as legal obligation.

3.6. Toward Integrated, Inter-Agency and Transnational Reform

The reform that follows from this analysis is institutional rather than merely textual. Because the effectiveness of enforcement depends on the enforcers, the facilities, and the legal culture as much as on the statute, reform must invest in trained personnel, adequate equipment at ports and crossings, and a culture of cooperation among agencies.

Concretely, this means establishing joint standard operating procedures and shared databases linking immigration, customs, quarantine, the police, and victim-protection authorities; training quarantine and customs officers to recognise and refer trafficking indicators; and designating clear referral pathways so that intercepted women and children reach protection rather than punishment. Strengthening the competence of personnel in the field and building synergy

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among agencies are precisely the measures the enforcement literature recommends.

Reform must also reach beyond the national border. Trafficking and smuggling networks adapt by seeking the most permissive route, so that the failure of one state becomes the vulnerability of its neighbours; effective response therefore requires extradition, mutual legal assistance, and regional cooperation alongside domestic capacity-building. Within an integrated, victim-centred, and transnationally connected system, the quarantine authority's frontline presence becomes an asset not only for biosecurity but for the protection of women and children.

Finally, the legal mandate of the quarantine service should be read purposively. Its supervisory and investigative powers over cross-border traffic, exercised in coordination with immigration and the police, allow it to contribute to the detection of human trafficking without exceeding its statutory role, provided inter-agency referral mechanisms are formalized (Article 82 of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2019 Number 201. See further Government Regulation Number 29 of 2023 on the Implementing Regulation of Law Number 21 of 2019 on Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine, and Presidential Regulation Number 45 of 2023). So construed, the border ceases to be a row of separate gates and becomes a single, intelligent shield protecting both the nation's people and its living wealth. In exercising this mandate, Badan Karantina Hewan dan Tumbuhan acts through layered regulatory instruments—agency regulations (Peraturan Badan) and, beneath them, the decisions of its deputies (Keputusan Deputi)—whose validity follows the hierarchy of legal norms (*Stufenbau*) as adopted in Indonesian legislation theory: a lower instrument derives its force from the higher regulation that authorises it, so that its legal basis (*konsiderans mengingat*) need cite only as high as the implementing Government Regulation from which it directly descends, and need invoke the statute itself only where that statute directly delegates the matter to the instrument in question (Maria Farida Indrati S., 2007).

A further reform concerns capacity and technology at the frontier. Adequate scanning equipment, shared risk-profiling databases, and joint training exercises allow officers of different agencies to act on a common picture of risk; without these facilities, even a well-drafted mandate remains inert. Investment in the human and material infrastructure of the border is therefore not ancillary to legal reform but constitutive of it.

Equally important is the protection orientation of the whole system. An integrated border that intercepts more efficiently but treats victims as violators would betray its own purpose; the measure of success is not only the number of interdictions but the number of women and children safely identified, protected, and restored. The role of the quarantine authority,

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reimagined within this protective and cooperative frame, exemplifies how an institution built for biosecurity can also serve the security of the most vulnerable.

A practical roadmap can be sketched. In the short term, joint standard operating procedures and a shared referral pathway among quarantine, customs, immigration, the police, and the victim-protection authority can be adopted without legislative change. In the medium term, an interoperable risk-profiling database and a programme of joint training would institutionalise cooperation. In the longer term, a formal legal basis for integrated border management would consolidate these gains and align domestic practice with international standards.

Such reform must be accompanied by monitoring and evaluation that measure protection, not merely interdiction. Indicators should include the number of suspected victims correctly identified and referred, the proportion who receive protection and restitution, and the degree of inter-agency data-sharing achieved—metrics that keep the system honest to its protective purpose. Anchored in the constitutional duty to protect every person and in the objectives of Islamic law, an integrated and victim-centred border becomes a coherent shield for women, children, and the living wealth of the nation alike.

4. Conclusion

Human trafficking is a transnational organised crime whose victims—overwhelmingly women and children—are moved through the same borders, ports, and remote crossings that carry the smuggling of migrants and the illegal trade in wildlife and biological resources. Indonesia's anti-trafficking framework is sound in substance but fragmented at the frontier, where immigration, customs, and the quarantine authority operate in silos. Examined through the value of justice and the objectives of Islamic law—the preservation of life and of the environment, and the prohibition of corruption on earth—the protection of vulnerable people and the protection of nature emerge as a single duty. Strengthening cross-border and quarantine enforcement therefore means building an integrated, inter-agency, and transnationally connected border-management system that is victim-centred at its core: joint protocols and shared data among immigration, customs, quarantine, the police, and victim-protection authorities; training frontline officers to detect and refer trafficking indicators; clear pathways that route intercepted women and children toward protection and restitution; and regional cooperation to deny networks a permissive route. So designed, the quarantine officer's frontline presence becomes a shield for both the nation's people and its biological wealth.

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