



## Local Politics and Cultural Practices in Environmental Protection and Disaster Management: A Systematic Literature Review

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to map research trends in local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management using a bibliometric approach. This study employs a bibliometric-based systematic literature review using Scopus data analyzed with RStudio (Bibliometrix) and VOSviewer. The results show a significant increase in publications over the last decade, with dominant contributions from developing and disaster-prone countries. Key themes include local government, disaster management, and environmental protection, indicating a shift toward participatory and context-based approaches to disaster management. This study was limited to the Scopus database; future studies may include other databases. These findings provide insights for policymakers to integrate local political dynamics and cultural practices into environmental and disaster governance. This study offers comprehensive bibliometric mapping and highlights the integration of political and cultural dimensions in environmental and disaster studies.

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## Introduction

Global environmental degradation and increasing disaster risk have been interrelated and increasingly concerning issues over the past few decades. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution triggered by human activities, such as deforestation, overexploitation of natural resources, and greenhouse gas emissions, have contributed to the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, including floods, storms, wildfires, and other climate-related disasters (Ali & Khan, 2025; Rakowska, 2024). These disasters not only cause physical damage and economic losses in the short term but also accelerate ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, thereby worsening long-term environmental vulnerability (Mbedzi et al., 2025).

The impacts of environmental degradation and disasters are felt unevenly, with developing regions and vulnerable groups bearing a greater burden owing to limited adaptation capacity, socio-economic conditions, and suboptimal environmental governance (Ali & Khan, 2025; Richardson et al., 2025). In addition, ecosystem degradation reduces the ability of the

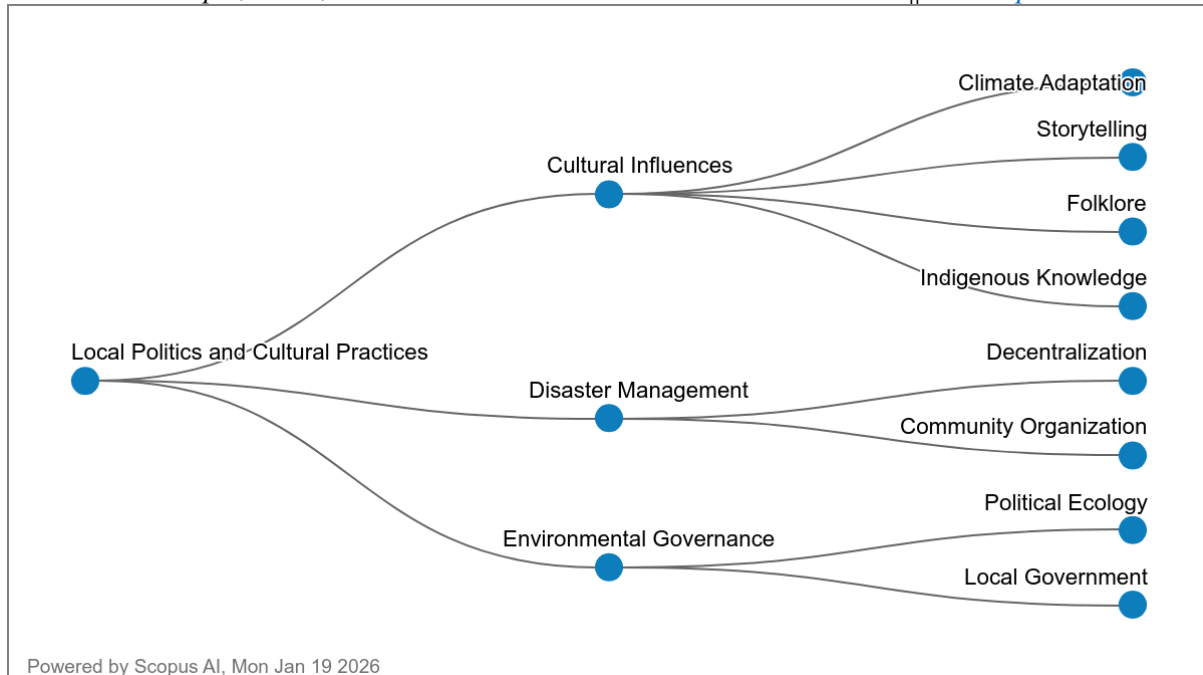
environment to provide essential ecosystem services, such as clean water, soil fertility, and protection of human health, ultimately hindering sustainable development (Agache et al., 2025; Singh et al., 2024). Therefore, environmental degradation and disaster risk are urgent global issues that demand an integrated policy response, including strengthening ecological conservation, implementing nature-based solutions, and reforming sustainable development policies, especially in the most at-risk areas (McElwee et al., 2020; Shakoor & Ahmed, 2023; Silveira et al., 2025).

As environmental degradation and disaster risk increase globally, attention to contextual and region-based coping mechanisms is growing. In this context, local politics and wisdom emerge as key elements in environmental protection and disaster management, primarily through the integration of traditional knowledge and formal governance frameworks. Local wisdom, rooted in cultural practices and social institutions, has proven to be a sustainable approach to disaster mitigation and environmental management. For example, in the Minangkabau community, the values of local wisdom are embedded in family structures and traditional arts that function as a medium for disaster education and strengthening community preparedness (Damsar & Indrayani, 2018). Similarly, the Bajo community in Indonesia uses taboos, rituals, and oral traditions as guidelines for disaster mitigation, reflecting the close relationship between humans and coastal and marine environments (Marhadi et al., 2024).

Simultaneously, the effectiveness of environmental protection and disaster risk reduction efforts is greatly influenced by local political dynamics and capacity. The implementation of regional autonomy, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia, has led to variations in environmental policy approaches across regions, with some local governments still prioritizing economic interests, creating regulatory gaps, and weakly enforcing environmental laws (Rusmini et al., 2025). However, several studies have shown that mainstreaming local wisdom into ecological policies and regulations, especially in coastal areas, can strengthen community resilience to climate change and disaster risk by adopting a more context-specific and sustainable approach (Aspan et al., 2025). In addition, the performance of responsive local governments also plays a role in encouraging public participation, as shown by the findings in China linking public satisfaction with government environmental performance to increased public involvement in environmental protection (Jia & Lin, 2025). Therefore, the synergy between local politics and local wisdom is an essential foundation for building adaptive environmental governance, strengthening community-based resilience, and increasing the effectiveness of disaster management (Bhanye, 2025; Musendekwa, 2025; Yusup Permana & Mariana, 2025).

To clarify the relationship between local politics, cultural practices, and environmental issues and disasters, this study presents a conceptual map of the literature, outlining the main themes, as shown in Figure 1. The conceptual map shows that the literature on local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management can be organized into three main clusters: cultural influences, disaster management, and environmental governance.





**Figure 1.** Conceptual map

**Source .** Scopus AI, 2026

Figure 1 shows that the cultural influences cluster highlights the roles of local wisdom, traditional knowledge, folklore, and narrative practices, such as storytelling, in supporting climate change and strengthening community resilience. Meanwhile, the disaster management cluster emphasized decentralization and community organization as key mechanisms for local-level disaster risk reduction. The environmental governance cluster aligns with the literature's focus on the roles of local governments and political approaches in regulating power, resource relations, and ecological sustainability (Lecuyer & Verrier, 2025). This mapping shows that although the three clusters are interrelated, studies systematically integrating all these dimensions remain relatively limited.

Although studies on local politics, local wisdom, environmental protection, and disaster management have evolved significantly, the existing literature still shows thematic fragmentation and separate approaches. Most studies address environmental governance, disaster management, or local wisdom only partially, without integrating the dimensions of local politics and cultural practices into a single framework (Leung, 2021).

Conceptual maps of the literature show that the linkages between cultural influences, disaster management, and environmental governance have been acknowledged. However, they have rarely been systematically studied to identify existing thematic patterns, methodological trends, and research gaps. In addition, studies that specifically examine the role of local politics and wisdom in environmental protection and disaster risk reduction remain relatively limited, especially within the framework of systematic literature reviews.

In light of these gaps, this study presents a systematic literature review that comprehensively examines the roles of local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management. In particular, this study aims to (1) map the main themes and developments of studies related to local politics and local wisdom in the context of the environment and disasters, (2) identify the conceptual relationships between environmental governance, disaster management, and cultural influences at the local level, and (3) examine the implications of these findings for the development of contextual and sustainable disaster risk reduction policies and practices.

Although previous studies have examined various aspects of disaster governance, such as decentralization, local leadership, community participation, and resilience-building, research on the political dimensions of local disaster management remains fragmented. Existing scholarship is largely dominated by case-specific analyses, regional discussions, and issue-based studies that focus on specific disaster events or governance mechanisms (Hirono & Nurdin, 2024). Consequently, the broader intellectual structure of the field, including its publication trends, thematic evolution, collaborative patterns, and emerging research priorities, remains insufficiently mapped. More importantly, there is still limited bibliometric and integrative evidence that specifically examines the intersection of local politics and disaster management as distinct area of inquiry (Rusmini et al., 2025). While local politics is frequently acknowledged as an influential factor in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, it is often treated as a secondary variable rather than a central analytical lens. This creates a significant knowledge gap in understanding how the field has developed, which themes dominate the literature, and which geographical and conceptual areas remain unexplored (Abikoye & Abikoye, 2025).

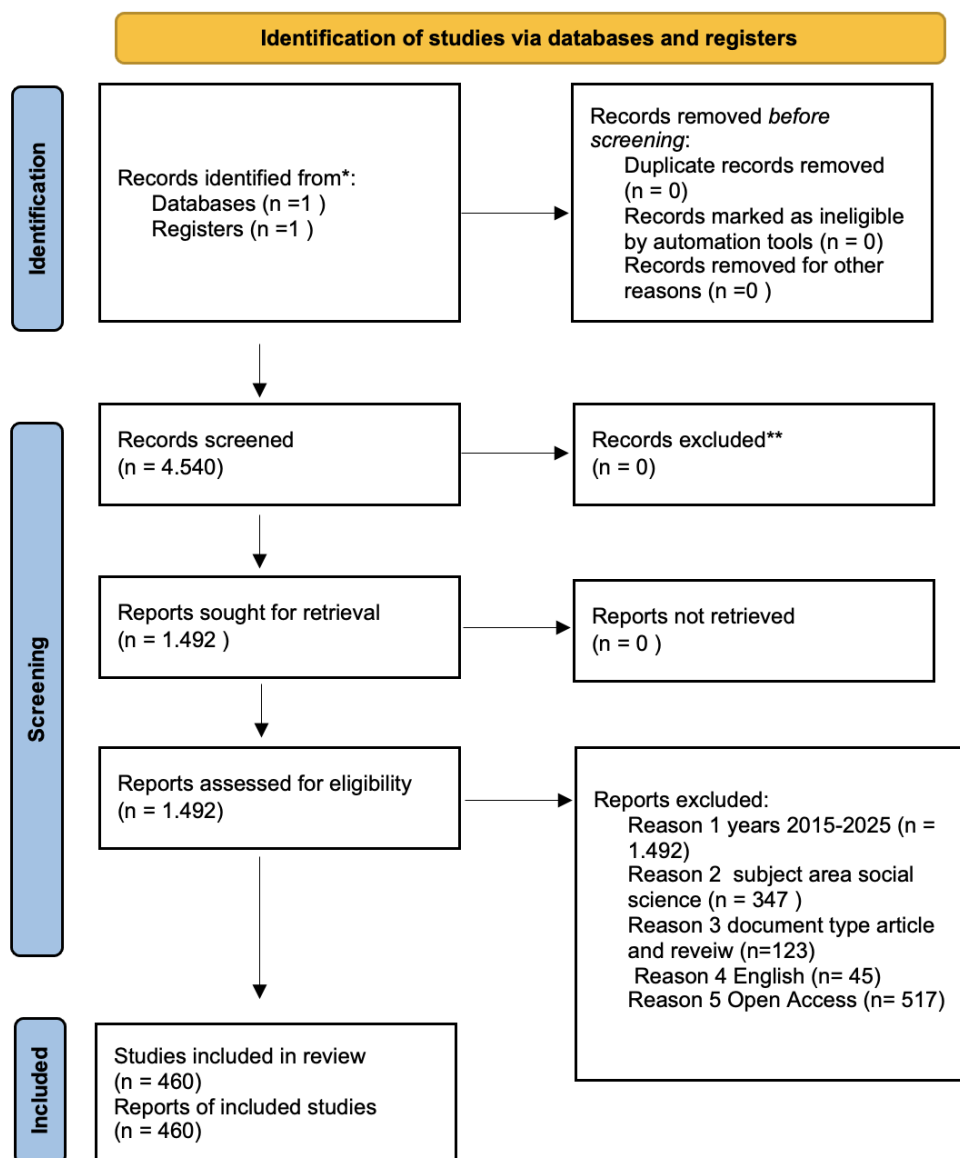
To address this gap, this study conducts a bibliometric analysis of the literature on local politics in disaster management. By systematically mapping publication trends, authorship patterns, influential sources, and thematic structures, this study aims to provide a clearer overview of the field and identify directions for future research in this area. The main contribution of this SLR is an integrated conceptual synthesis of the roles of local politics and wisdom in addressing the challenges of environmental degradation and disaster risk. This study not only enriches the literature on locally based environmental and disaster governance but also offers an analytical framework for researchers and policymakers to design more adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable interventions. Thus, this study is expected to serve as both an academic reference and a policy basis for strengthening local environmental and community resilience.

## Methodology

In this study, we used a bibliometric review to analyze the knowledge base related to digital transformation in local governments. The methodology section describes the steps to identify the source and the data analysis methods used. This study uses a qualitative approach with bibliometric methods to review the development of research on netizens and online political discourse. Primary data were obtained from the Scopus database using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines to ensure a systematic data search and screening process. Data searches were conducted using the Advanced Search feature in Scopus with the following keyword combinations:

( TITLE-ABS-KEY ("local politics" OR "local governance" OR "local government" OR "local wisdom") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("environmental protection" OR "environmental management" OR "disaster management" OR "disaster risk reduction") ) AND PUBYEAR > 2014 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA, "SOC" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE, "ar" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE, "re" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE, "ENGLISH" ) ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( OA, "all" ) ). The search results yielded 460 documents, which were exported to CSV format for further analysis. The data screening process was performed manually to ensure that only articles relevant to the topic of digital transformation in local government were included in the analysis.





**Figure 2:** PRISMA Diagram

**Source :** Processed by the Author, 2026

The next stage of this study was data analysis, which was carried out using VOSviewer and RStudio with the Bibliometrix package and Biblioshiny feature. The analysis process involved various bibliometric indicators, such as publications per author, citations, keyword co-occurrence, and author collaborations. Using VOSviewer, the analysis data are visualized as a network map to show the relationships among concepts, authors, and frequently occurring keywords. RStudio and Bibliometrix were used to conduct more in-depth bibliometric analyses, including publication trends and citation analyses.

In the initial stage, a descriptive analysis was conducted to provide a general overview of research on Environmental Politics in disaster mitigation, including publication trends, author distribution, institutional affiliations, and countries of origin. Furthermore, an advanced bibliometric analysis was conducted, including citation, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence analyses, to identify patterns of author relationships, collaboration between countries, and the most dominant research themes. The results of this analysis provide a comprehensive overview of how local political concepts in disaster mitigation are evolving in the academic literature and the direction of future research.

This section presents a systematic mapping of five selected articles on environmental politics and disaster mitigation policies in Southeast Asia. The literature was analyzed using bibliometric and LSR approaches to understand how the concept of green politics develops, is applied, and is debated in the context of disaster governance. Each article was selected based on its thematic relevance, publication quality, and alignment with the research objectives of this study. By structuring the literature into tables, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the focus of previous research, the methods used, the scope of the country studied, and key findings that support the understanding of the integration of green politics into disaster mitigation. The table approach also makes it easier for readers to see the essential patterns in the development of knowledge over the past decade.

**Table 1.** List of Articles Included in Literature Systematic Review

| No | Author                   | Title   | Results of the Discussion  |
|----|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1  | Jing et al., (2025)      | Why communities withdraw: A multilevel analysis of rural disaster resilience in China | Describe the factors influencing the withdrawal of rural community participation in disaster mitigation, including socio-economic conditions and institutional capacity. |
| 2  | Abikoye & Abikoye (2025) | Marine policy and community engagement: rethinking coastal governance in Lagos        | This study examines the lack of participation of coastal communities in Lagos' marine policy and offers a new model for improving coastal governance.                    |
| 3  | Li & Tong (2025)         | Developing a quantitative analytical framework for tourism carbon neutrality          | Develop a quantitative analysis framework to calculate the carbon footprint of the tourism sector and strategies for carbon neutrality.                                  |
| 4  | Lecuyer & Verrie (2025)  | Implementing Innovative Climate Change Procedures in Colorado's Cattle Sector         | Assess climate change adaptation innovations in Colorado's cattle ranch sector and how policies affect their implementation.   |
| 5  | Nipa et al., (2025)      | Third-Sector Organizations as Intermediaries in Climate Adaptation Governance         | It discusses how third-sector organizations act as intermediaries in climate adaptation governance and solve complex problems.   |

Source by: Database Scopus, 2025

## Result and Discussion

This section presents the results of a bibliometric analysis and a systematic literature review (LSR) on local politics in disaster mitigation and discusses them through thematic synthesis. Unlike a purely descriptive approach, this study's results not only map publication trends but also identify significant themes that shape the intellectual structure and direction of research development. Thus, this section integrates bibliometric quantitative findings with substantive analyses of the political dynamics, governance, and disaster mitigation.

### Main Information

Figure 3 summarizes the main descriptive characteristics of this bibliometric dataset. The analysis covered the period 2015–2025 and included 462 documents from 172 sources. The annual growth rate of 29.1% indicates a significant increase in scholarly interest in local politics and disaster management in the last decade.



The dataset involved 1,459 authors, with only 59 single-authored publications, suggesting that the field is predominantly collaborative. This is further reflected in the average of 3.48 co-authors per document and an international co-authorship rate of 22.73%. In addition, the dataset contains 1,655 author keywords and 4,268 references, indicating considerable thematic diversity and a strong, intellectual foundation. The average document age is 4.16 years, while the average citation per document is 13.5, suggesting that the literature is relatively recent and has achieved a moderate scholarly impact.

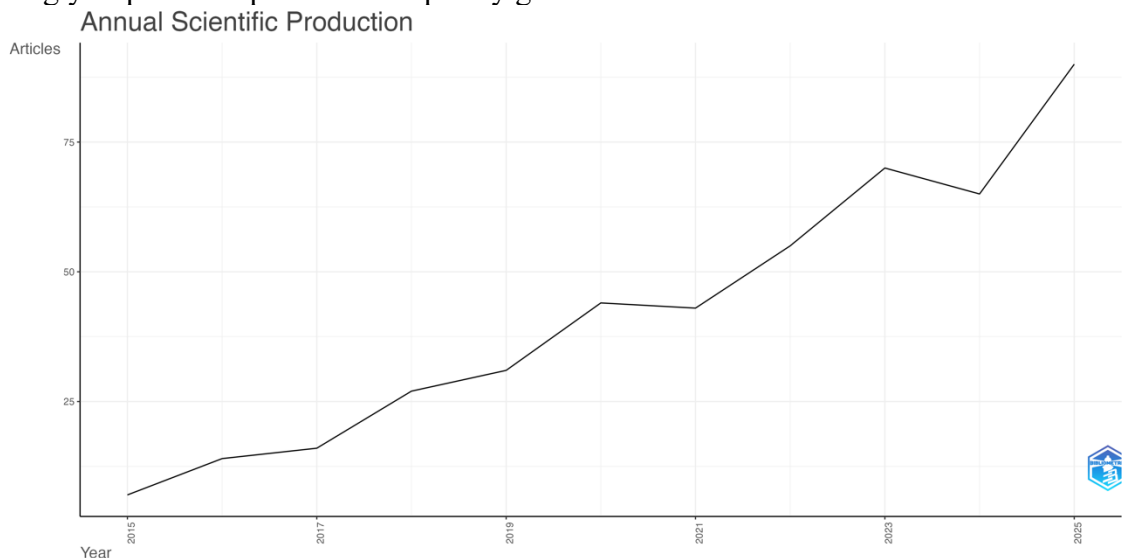


**Figure 3.** main Information

Source: Created by authors using Rstudio,2026

*Annual Scientific Production*

Figure 4 illustrates the annual scientific production of local politics in disaster management from 2015 to 2025. The trend shows a consistent increase in the number of publications over the observed period, indicating a growing scholarly interest in this research area. Although minor fluctuations are visible in several years, the overall trajectory remains upward, with a particularly notable rise after 2020, and the highest publication output recorded in 2025. This pattern suggests that local politics in disaster management have emerged as an increasingly important topic in contemporary governance and disaster studies.



**Figure 4.** Annual scientific production

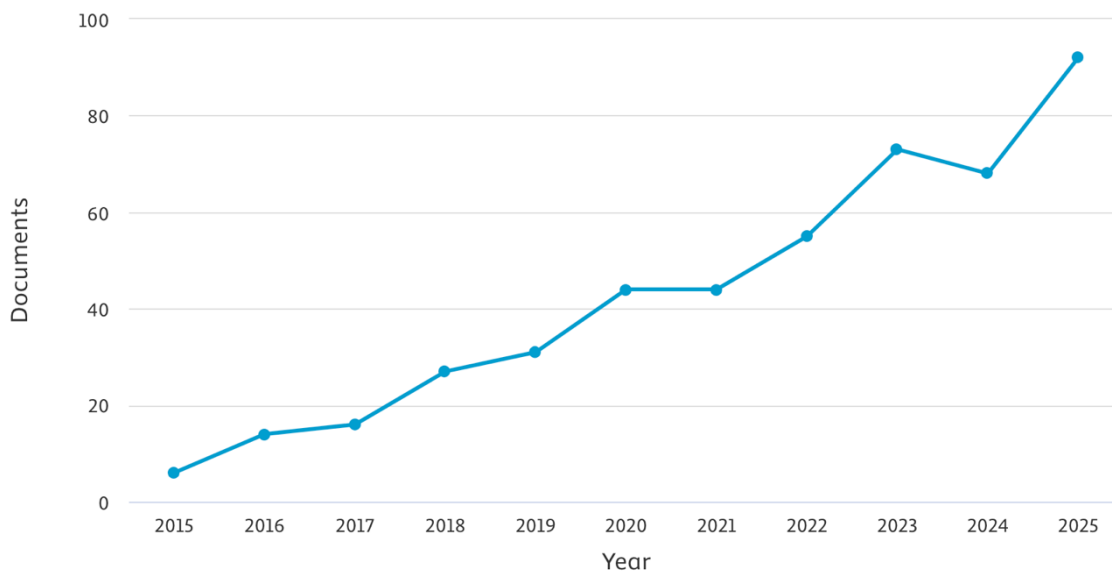
Source: Created by authors using Rstudio,2026



### Publication Trends

The results of the publication trend analysis (Figure 3) show a significant increase in the number of studies on disaster mitigation and environmental governance during the period 2020–2025. This increase reflects the growing academic attention to the catastrophic risks triggered by climate change, urbanization, and environmental degradation. However, despite this quantitative growth, the literature still shows the dominance of technical and managerial approaches in understanding disaster mitigation.

Documents by year



**Figure 5.** Document by Years  
**Source:** Scopus Database, 2025

Figure 5 shows an increasing trend in the number of publications from 2015 to 2025. In the initial phase (2015–2017), the number of documents remained relatively low, gradually increasing from approximately six in 2015 to approximately 16 in 2017. A more significant increase was observed since 2018, when the number of publications rose to more than 25 and continued to grow, reaching approximately 44 in 2020.

The year-over-year increase in publications on local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management reflects a paradigm shift in environmental and disaster studies, which increasingly positions local actors as key actors. This trend is driven by the increasing recognition of the value of local knowledge in ecological governance and disaster risk management, especially in conservation planning, understanding socio-ecological interactions, and strengthening communities' adaptive capacity (Djosetro & Behagel, 2024; Leithäuser & Holzacker, 2020). In the context of disasters, local knowledge has been shown to play an essential role in managing the risks posed by natural hazards and increasing community resilience to complex emergencies (Musendekwa, 2025; Setten & Lein, 2019). In addition, cultural practices and indigenous knowledge are increasingly recognized as integral components of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation strategies, where the integration of traditional practices and modern approaches can build sustainable resilience and bridge local knowledge systems with formal policy frameworks (Lawangen & Roberts, 2023; Markolinda et al., 2025; Mercer et al., 2012).

However, the increase in publications is also influenced by the strengthening of participatory approaches and the focus on the role of local governments in environmental and disaster governance. Active community involvement in the decision-making process is considered to increase policy legitimacy, implementation effectiveness, and social acceptance

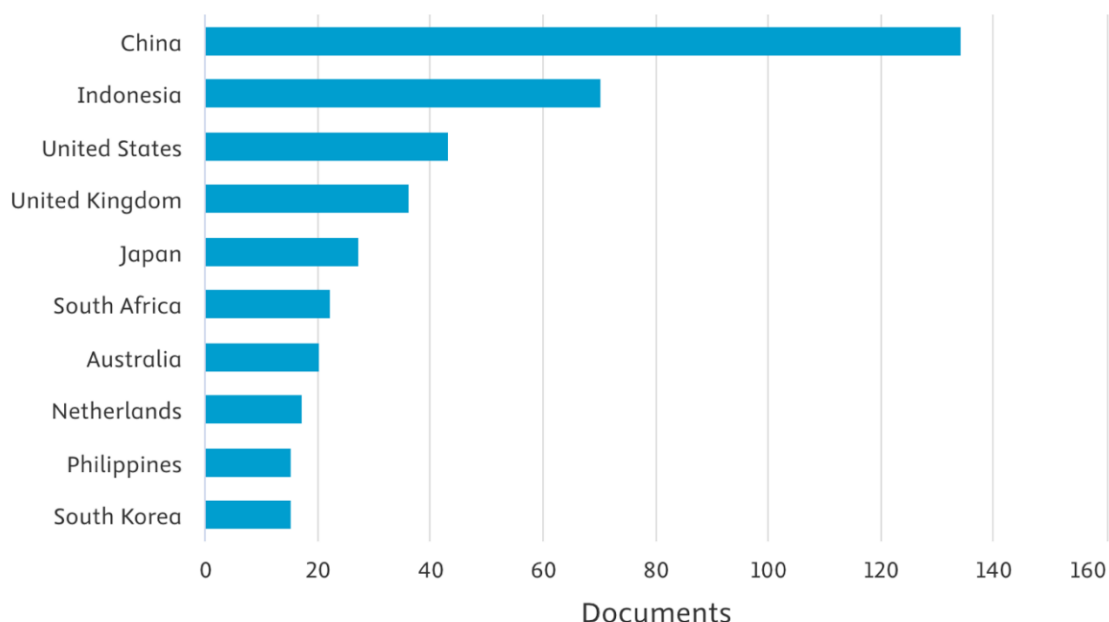


of ecological programs and DRR (Curry & Lopez, 2020; McDonagh et al., 2020; Taylor & de Loë, 2012). In line with this, the literature increasingly highlights the strategic role of local governments in climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially in the context of decentralization, institutional support, and multilevel governance collaboration (Arroyave et al., 2025; Moloney et al., 2017). An interdisciplinary approach that integrates social, cultural, and environmental sciences also enriches this study with a more comprehensive analysis of the socio-cultural impacts of climate change and disasters, while affirming the importance of education, communication, and cultural activities in building awareness and sustainable behavior in communities (Hooker et al., 2026; Howarth & Anderson, 2019; Rojas Hernández & Ulloa-Guerra, 2025).

### *Geographic Distribution of Research: Dominance of Vulnerable Regions and Developing Countries*

In addition to examining the development of publications over time, bibliometric analyses are essential for identifying the geographical distribution of research contributions. Mapping the number of documents by country of origin provides an overview of the countries most active in developing the study of local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management. This shows the regional context that dominates the academic discourse in this field.

Spatial analysis revealed that none of the 38 existing fish aggregating devices (FADs) met the legal distance requirement of  $\geq 10$  nautical miles, and the ideal number of FADs based on the total distribution area was only 12. This significant gap between current practices and regulatory standards reflects underlying issues of awareness and decision-making among local fishermen. Based on the results of observations and interviews, one of the causes is the community's ignorance of the regulation. Likewise, related to the way fishermen determine the location of relatively uniform fish aggregating devices (FADs), such as looking at the characteristics of the waters because there are flocks of birds, watercolor, and water ripples, and prioritizing experience and instinct so that the spatial pattern of fish aggregating devices (FADs) is close to each other.



**Figure 6.** Distribution of scientific publications by country in the study of Local Politics and disaster mitigation.

Source: Scopus Database, 2026



Figure 6 shows the distribution of countries that are most actively publishing research on local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management in Scopus. The visualization shows that China is the most significant contributor, followed by Indonesia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Africa, Australia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and South Korea. This pattern indicates that studies on local politics and cultural practices in the context of the environment and disasters are growing rapidly in both developing and developed countries, especially in regions facing high environmental pressures and complex local governance.

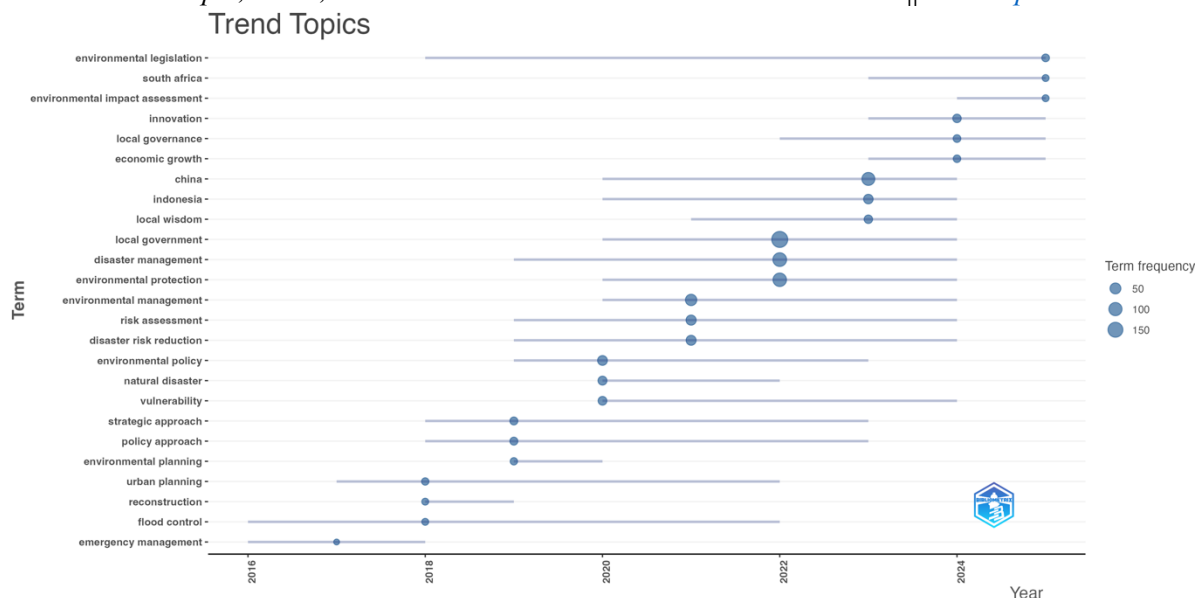
The context of rapid economic transformation and significant environmental impacts in East Asia explains the dominance of China, Japan, and South Korea. Industrial growth and massive urbanization have driven increased ecological degradation and disaster risk, prompting academic attention to the roles of local governments and culture-based approaches in environmental and disaster management (Harrell & Haddad, 2021; Harris, 2024). In these countries, the concept of eco-developmentalism emerged as an effort to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, with local politics playing an essential role in the implementation of environmental policies at the subnational level. Moreover, decisive state intervention in environmental reporting and management has encouraged research on local ecological governance (Leung, 2021).

Meanwhile, the high number of publications from Indonesia and the Philippines reflects their high vulnerability to natural disasters and the importance of local wisdom in disaster mitigation and response. Both countries are prone to earthquakes, floods, and tropical storms; therefore, local cultural practices and knowledge are essential resources for adaptive capacity. Several studies have confirmed that local knowledge and cultural practices in Southeast Asia play a significant role in shaping more contextual and community-based disaster management mechanisms (Hirono & Nurdin, 2024). In addition, regional cooperation, such as ASEAN's collaboration with the European Union in civil protection, has heightened academic attention to local politics and disaster governance in the region (Cook & Dorussen, 2021).

The contributions of countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, the Netherlands, and South Africa show that local political issues and cultural practices are not only a concern of the Global South but are also relevant in the Global North. These countries generally have strong research capacities and a long tradition of studying local governance, environmental policy, and disaster management. Academics' academic interests in these countries often focus on developing policy frameworks, comparing cross-border local governance, and learning from community-based practices across various social and cultural contexts (Bian et al., 2024; Aktas, 2015). Thus, the geographical distribution in Figure 4 confirms that research on local politics and artistic practices in environmental protection and disaster management is developing into a global field of study but remains strongly influenced by ecological vulnerability, disaster experience, and local governance dynamics in each country.

In line with these geographic distributions, it is crucial to examine not only where research is conducted but also how the focus and themes of studies evolve. Trend analysis of topics is relevant for identifying shifts in academic attention in local political studies and cultural practices related to environmental protection and disaster management. Through topic trend mapping, it can be traced how the literature is moving from a technocratic and responsive approach to a more contextual, participatory, and local governance-based perspective. Therefore, Figure 5 presents the dynamics of research topic development based on the frequency of occurrence of key keywords in the Scopus database, providing an overview of the field's direction and depth.





**Figure 7.** Visualization of trends in local politics and disaster mitigation topics  
**Source:** Scopus Database, processed using Bibliometrix RStudio, 2026

Based on Figure 7, the trends in the research topic indicate a clear shift in focus toward study local politics and cultural practices related to environmental protection and disaster management. In the early period, topics such as emergency management, flood control, and reconstruction were prominent, reflecting a reactive approach focused on post-disaster management. Over time, academic attention has shifted towards a more preventive and strategic approach, marked by an increase in studies on risk assessment, environmental planning, policy approaches, and disaster risk reduction. This shift reflects the growing awareness that disaster risk management and environmental protection require long-term planning and cross-sectoral policy integration.

In the most recent period, topic trends show a strengthening of themes directly related to local governance and sociocultural dimensions, such as local government, local wisdom, environmental legislation, and environmental protection. The emergence of these themes simultaneously indicates that the literature increasingly places local government and cultural practices as key elements for improving environmental resilience and disaster management, especially in vulnerable areas. Thus, the development of this topic trend confirms that studies in this field are moving towards a more contextual, participatory, and sensitive approach to local political dynamics and cultural values.

### *Keyword Mapping and Thematic Structure of Research*

Keyword analysis is an important step in understanding the primary focus and conceptual orientation of local political literature and cultural practices related to environmental protection and disaster management. A word cloud identifies the terms that appear most frequently in the analyzed work, providing a preliminary overview of the field's dominant themes and most discussed issues. This visualization reflects the intensity of academic attention to a particular topic and shows how the dimensions of governance, the environment, and disasters are interconnected in scientific discourse. Figure 6 presents a word cloud of key terms from the local political literature and cultural practices related to environmental protection and disaster management.







socio-cultural and policy approaches, but rather views local politics, environmental governance, and cultural practices as interrelated elements in building ecological resilience and disaster management.

## Conclusion

This systematic literature review shows that research on local politics and cultural practices in environmental protection and disaster management is developing into a multidisciplinary, global field of study. An analysis of publication trends and geographical distribution confirms that academic attention is concentrated in developing countries and disaster-prone regions and involves developed countries with strong research capacities. The dominance of the themes of local government, disaster management, and environmental protection indicates that local politics is a strategic arena for implementing environmental policies and disaster risk reduction across diverse social and institutional contexts.

Furthermore, keyword mapping and co-occurrence networks indicate a shift from a responsive technocratic approach to a more preventive, participatory, and contextual approach. The integration of local governance, environmental policies, and cultural practices, including local knowledge and wisdom, has emerged as an essential element in building social and ecological resilience. These findings underscore the need to strengthen policy frameworks that systematically accommodate local political dynamics and cultural practices while opening space for further comparative and empirical research to develop sustainable, context-based environmental and disaster management models.

## Funding Declaration

This research did not receive any specific grants from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

## Competing Interests

The author(s) declare (s) no conflict of interest.

## Data Availability

The data supporting the findings of this study are obtained from the Scopus database, which is publicly accessible. The search strategy, keywords, and inclusion criteria are clearly described in the methodology to ensure reproducibility. All data can be retrieved by other researchers using the same procedures.

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