

Imago Sophia:
A Christian Ecofeminist Reading on The Wisdom of Interfaith Women Weavers in Managing Life
on a Small and Dry Island in Alor Regency, Indonesia

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This paper elaborates on the relationship between Christian and Muslim women on the small island of Ternate, Alor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). This research shows that Christian and Muslim women on the small island develop wisdom to survive and develop their families' life by sharing resources for their common good and progress. On this small island, with an area of approximately 3.82 km² and a population of around 2,300 in 2024, men generally work as sailors and women as weavers. In a patriarchal society that prioritizes historical records from a male perspective, this research focuses on women's narratives to illustrate their wisdom in managing life on the small island. The method used for this research is a qualitative one with an ecofeminist theory and Christian theology approach. Data collection techniques include observation, in-depth interviews, and document studies. The research found that their spirituality for survival and development, among other things, is manifested through a shared commitment and consistency to environmental conservation to the extent possible, sharing women's economic resources (weaving knowledge and skills), and maintaining and passing on ancestral stories as local wisdom in a critical and transformative manner. Positive cultural aspects for the common good are maintained, inherited traditions that benefit only one religious group are transformed for their common development. Borrowing the concept of Sophia mentioned Elizabeth Johnson, a Catholic feminist theologian, this study seeks to develop the concept of Wisdom in the Christian Biblical tradition into a construction of humankind, particularly women, as the Imago Sophia, the image of Wisdom. This is a theological concept that affirms God's wisdom within women while simultaneously contributing a practical ethics derived from women's wisdom for the restoration of nature.