

Collaboration on Social Forestry Management in Jembrana Regency, Bali Province

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ABSTRACT

The utilization of the area in the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT KPH) is carried out through a social forestry program. Through the social forestry program, the government opens access to forest management involving communities surrounding the forest. The goal of this program is to improve the welfare of communities surrounding the forest while maintaining forest sustainability. Forest, land, and environmental damage, as well as the increase in the number of critical land within forest areas, are caused by suboptimal forest management, one of the causes being limited human resource capacity, so collaboration between all parties is needed. The purpose of this study is to determine how the collaboration carried out by the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT KPH) in managing forest areas in Jembrana as evaluation material for improving better and more sustainable forest management. The research results show that collaborative social forestry management with village forest schemes and forestry partnerships in Jembrana Regency involves Forest Farmer Groups (KTH), indigenous communities, Village Governments, Jembrana Regency Governments, NGOs, universities, State-Owned Enterprises, and the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT KPH) as the leading sector, an extension of the Bali Provincial Government. A fundamental requirement is to evaluate the performance of social forestry after permits are issued. An analysis of the independence of social forestry groups is crucial to ensure that community-led forest management yields better results. Independence is not only an economic issue, but also concerns the quality of institutions and sustainable forest governance in Jembrana Regency.

Keywords: *Collaboration, management, social forestry*

1. INTRODUCTION

The forest area in Jembrana Regency is managed by the Technical Implementation Unit (UPT) of the West Bali Forest Management Unit (KPH), which is divided into 5 RPH (Forest Management Resorts) and 1 Forest Product Monitoring Post (PPHH). Utilization of the area within the UPT KPH West Bali area is carried out through the Social Forestry program. Through the Social Forestry program, the government opens access to forest management that involves communities surrounding the forest. The goal of this program is to improve the welfare of communities surrounding the forest while maintaining forest sustainability. The proportion of forest area in Bali is only 23.19% (less than the target balance of 30% of the area), thus potentially disrupting the balance of the microclimate and the availability of sustainable water resources. Article 17 of Law No. 26 of 2007 explicitly states that in environmental conservation in spatial planning, the proportion of forest area is set at least 30% of the area of the river basin. Similarly, the importance of the function and existence of forests in the study of land carrying capacity in Bali Province recommends restoring the function of forest areas to their proper function, namely hydrological function.

Forest, land, and environmental damage, as well as the increasing number of critical areas within forest areas, are caused by suboptimal forest management. Forest areas are inseparable from the existence of communities surrounding them. Communities surrounding forests interact with the forest almost daily, both directly and indirectly. In their interactions with forest areas, communities need to be monitored and guided to ensure forest conditions are maintained and community well-being. Forest management at the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT) continues to face challenges related to forest

security, including encroachment, illegal logging, and forest fires. Illegal logging occurs due to the increasing demand for wood, coupled with the poverty of communities surrounding the forest. Meanwhile, encroachment occurs due to limited community-owned land, coupled with the increasing need for non-forestry land due to population growth. The community's need for arable land is projected to increase. This situation can pose a serious threat to forest management. If not managed properly, forest land will be sought after by the community. The still relatively low income and revenue of communities surrounding forests can increase their dependence on forest areas. This poses a threat to forest management, so management is carried out through sustainable community empowerment schemes.

The issue of forest maintenance, protection, and preservation must be viewed as a shared concern. In the community, there are groups of farmers or individuals who manage forestry businesses located around forest areas, forming an institution/group. This institution/group that manages forestry businesses is called the Forest Farmer Group (KTH). An effort to prevent and suppress further damage can be carried out by providing extension services to the KTH. The presence of forestry extension workers within the UPT. KPH West Bali is very limited (3 people). This number is very small compared to the vast forest area and adjacent villages that must be developed. The ideal number is 1 Forestry Extension Worker per village, so that it can facilitate the process of increasing knowledge, productivity, income, and welfare of communities around the forest, as well as raising awareness in preserving forest functions. To overcome human resource constraints from the State Civil Apparatus in managing forests, a pattern of collaboration and concern from various parties is needed. How the collaboration carried out by the UPT KPH West Bali in managing forest areas in Jembrana needs to be examined and studied as evaluation material for improving better and more sustainable forest management.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study method focusing on Jembrana Regency as the research object. The case study was chosen to gain a deeper understanding of social forestry implementation in each of the villages supporting community-based forests in the village. Through this method, the research can explore various social and institutional aspects that shape social forestry management patterns. Data collection techniques used in this study include observation, interviews, and documentation. Observations were conducted by directly observing community activities and social interactions that occur in each forest farmer group. Interviews were conducted with the UPT KPH West Bali, traditional leaders, village residents, and the Forest Farmer Group managing social forestry to gain a deeper perspective on the implementation of social forestry. Documentation includes data collection from various written sources, such as legal documents, as well as previous research relevant to this topic.

Through this combination of data collection techniques, the research is expected to produce a comprehensive analysis of the forms applied in social forestry management in Jembrana Regency. Thus, this research not only provides theoretical contributions but also offers practical recommendations for the community and stakeholders in efforts to maintain sustainable forest conservation and community well-being.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Regulations regarding social forestry are regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry No. P.83/Menlhk/Setjen/Kum.1/10/2016 concerning Social Forestry and refined into Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry number 9 of 2021. There are 5 established social forestry schemes, namely: a. Customary forests are forests located within the territory of customary law communities. b. Village forests are state forests managed by villages and utilized for village welfare and have not been burdened with permits/rights. c. Community forests are state forests whose primary use is intended for community empowerment. d. Community Plantation Forests are plantation forests in production forests built by community groups to increase the potential and quality of production forests by

implementing silviculture in order to ensure the sustainability of forest resources. e. Forestry Partnerships are collaborations between local communities and forest managers, holders of forest utilization/forest service business permits, forest area borrow-use permits, or holders of primary forest product industry business permits.

Social Forestry provides the widest possible opportunity for communities to utilize forests and conduct various activities within forest areas legally in the form of agrotourism, silvopasture, silvofishery, environmental services, ecotourism. The Social Forestry Program is implemented in conservation forest areas, protected forests, and production forests. Conservation forests can be managed under the Partnership Forest scheme. The form that can be implemented is a conservation partnership. Protected forests can be managed under the Village Forest, Community Forest and Partnership Forest schemes. Meanwhile, production forests can be managed under the Village Forest, Community Forest, Community Plantation Forest, and Partnership Forest schemes. The Customary Forest scheme is implemented in conservation forest areas, protected forests and/or production forests. The implementation permit for the Social Forestry Program is granted by the Minister of Forestry in the form of approval and determination. Ministerial approval is given for the Village, Community Forest, Community Plantation Forest, and Partnership Forest schemes. Meanwhile, Customary Forests are permits in the form of determination. The determination of customary forests consists of state forests and non-state forests [5].

The Ministry of Home Affairs through a letter to the Governors and Regents/Mayors throughout Indonesia (except DKI Jakarta) Number 552/1391/SJ dated February 13, 2020 and Circular Letter No. 552/6267/SJ dated November 18, 2020, requested that regions support the acceleration of social forestry through the allocation of APBD for community empowerment in Social Forestry locations, encourage BUMD and private partners to play an active role in accommodating and/or marketing the results of Social Forestry businesses and facilitate easy access to capital for permit holders from local regional banks [6].

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

KTH Collaboration in Social Forestry Management

The forest area of Jembrana Regency is 37,182.13 Ha consisting of Protected Forest (HL) of 34,068.70 Ha located in RTK 19 and RTK 12, Limited Production Forest (HPT) of 2,663.34 Ha located in RTK 19, Production Forest (HP) of 450.09 Ha located in RTK 19 and RTK 30, divided into 6 blocks namely Core Protected Forest Block, Utilization Protected Forest Block, Special Protected Forest Block, Production Forest Block for Utilization of Environmental Services and Non-Timber Forest Products, Empowerment Production Forest Block, and Special Production Forest Block. Administratively, forest management in the UPT area. West Bali KPH includes 5 Forest Management Resorts (RPH), namely Penginuman RPH, Candikusuma RPH, TegalCangkring RPH, YehEmbang RPH, and Pulukan RPH, as well as 1 (one) Gilimanuk Forest Products Inspection Post (PPHH) [1].

The policy of empowering forest-dwelling communities in Jembrana Regency is implemented through a social forestry program, currently implemented through Village Forests and Forestry Partnerships. The potential for Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) in Jembrana Regency is quite significant. There are 15 forest farmer groups from adjacent villages that manage potential forest areas. These Forest Farmer Groups are: Honey Sari Blimbingsari, Forest of KhertiPangkung Tanah KauhMelaya, DarmaKertiKembangsariTukadaya, Forest of AgungYatmaSumpersari, Forest of MertaDelodPangkungBudeng, Forest of AsriNusamaraYehEmbangKangin, Werdhi Forest of RtaMundukAnyarTegalCangkring, BunutBolongManggissari, Peak of MawarDewasanaPendem, Giri Lestari PangkungApitPergung, BanuGiri Lestari BangliYehEmbangKangin, Pala TirtaAmertaPalasariEkasari, Tirta Sari Melaya Tengah Kaja, Sari TaniKlatakan,MajuMapanPenginumanGilimanuk.

There are 8 villages that have Village Forest Management Rights Decree; Berangbang Village Forest Management Institution (LPHD) Berangbang Village 104 ha. Tukadaya LPHD Tukadaya Village 299

ha, Manistutu LPHD, Manistutu Village 102 ha, YehSumbul LPHD, YehSumbul Village, 210 ha, MendoyoDauhTukad LPHD MendoyoDauhTukad Village 122 ha, Medewi LPHD Medewi Village 199 ha, Pulukan LPHD Pulukan Village 201 ha, Pengeragoan LPHD Pengeragoan Village 1,325 ha. There are 2 villages that are still in the stage of completing the files in obtaining HPHD permits, namely BatuAgung Village and Penyaringan Village and 2 villages that are in the application process, namely Gumbrih Village and Asah Duren Village. There are 5 Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) that have been verified to participate in the Forestry Partnership program and 10 KTHs are in the stage of proposing and completing files. Forestry Partnership proposals will continue to be made in conflict-prone areas with potential for development. The hope is that this Forestry Partnership program will improve the welfare of forest-dwelling communities while maintaining forest functions.

The West Bali forest area has the potential for forestry business development due to its rich flora and fauna and its potential for environmental services. Potential businesses include environmental services (nature tourism) and non-timber forest products (honey, eucalyptus, seed sources, and plantation crops). Furthermore, the relatively homogeneous culture of the community, if optimally managed, can positively impact the area's function. This is directly proportional to the improvement of the protection function, area utilization, and environmental services utilization, which ultimately can improve the welfare of the communities surrounding the forest. Environmental services that can be developed include water utilization, utilization of water flows (tubing) and waterfalls, educational tourism, sports tourism (tracking), nature tourism, and religious areas in all temples within the forest area. In protected forests, area utilization can be carried out by developing honey bees, cultivating medicinal plants, collecting non-timber forest products (honey and fruit). Judging from its location, the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT) is quite strategic and it is very possible to integrate forest management with other sectors, such as tourism. In addition, the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT) area, which directly borders the West Bali National Park area, has great opportunities for collaboration and integration of forest management, especially in building business ventures, protecting and securing forests.

Utilization of forest environmental services through ecotourism or nature tourism schemes in Social Forestry locations can increase income for the community and the state, and can protect forests from deforestation. In addition to being profitable from an economic and ecological aspect, it can also be beneficial from a social aspect because ecotourism activities in the forest will involve many communities in its management. Utilization of environmental services as an effort to utilize the potential of ecosystem services without damaging and not reducing the main function of the forest ecosystem. Optimizing forest environmental services economically can protect forests from deforestation because forests can provide sufficient income for the state and the community, besides only being a cost burden as previously considered. This optimization can be done through ecotourism schemes and environmental service trade without eliminating any ecosystem elements from the forest itself. Regional agencies that can support these activities include: regional agencies that handle community and village empowerment affairs, cooperatives and MSMEs, communications and informatics, public works, tourism, sub-district territorial elements, regional secretariat elements, in coordination with regional agencies that handle forestry affairs or provincial planning elements [3].

One strategy developed is to integrate Social Forestry into the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDs). In Pakis and Sidodadi Villages, Jember Regency, Social Forestry activities have become a village development agenda. This village government support is a form of empowering social forestry as one of the village's potential superior products. In Jember Regency, there are 20 Social Forestry permits, of which only a few are operational. The Jember Regency Government's initiative from 2021-2022 to create a Road Map and Post-Permit Action Plan is a jurisdictional approach capable of accelerating social forestry achievements. Post-permit assistance needs to be focused and, of course, tailored to the capacity needs of social forestry groups in each location. The involvement of multi-stakeholder collaboration is increasingly necessary, given that the government cannot work alone. Support from NGOs, universities, companies, and the media is essential to accelerate social forestry achievements and information dissemination. Decentralization of social forestry management responsibilities to regional governments is

not limited to the provincial level, but requires breakthrough applications at the district/city government level. Therefore, multi-stakeholder collaboration at the provincial and district levels needs to be integrated into a post-social forestry permit roadmap that divides the contributions and responsibilities of regional parties [12].

The West Bali Forest Management Unit (KPH) has 108.60 hectares of critical land categorized as critical. Rehabilitation in the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT) has not shown optimal success. This is due to numerous reforestation failures (many plants die before they grow large). These failures are caused by inappropriate planting seasons, lack of follow-up maintenance, poorly adapted seedlings, and disturbances from the surrounding community in the form of root/stem cutting and livestock disturbances. These factors result in low vegetation cover, which in turn will lead to the occurrence of critical land. The West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT) and the KTH must undertake conservation and rehabilitation efforts for this critical land. This is based on the assumption that the land is somewhat critical and has the potential to become critical. It is hoped that the rehabilitation of critical land will increase the amount of biodiversity, both flora and fauna.

A fundamental requirement is to pause the issuance of social forestry permits and simultaneously evaluate their performance post-permit. Analyzing the independence of social forestry groups is crucial to ensure that community-led forest management is indeed yielding improved results. Independence is not just about economics, but also concerns the quality of forest institutions and governance. Independence means that social forestry groups are able to manage group dynamics and independently finance program operations without relying on facilitators. Furthermore, measuring the impact of social forestry management is necessary to provide evidence and confidence that social forestry can improve the economy, social capital, and forest sustainability in Jembrana.

Social forestry management that is open to collaboration and targeted mainstreaming of marginalized communities will be able to overcome ego-subjectivity between institutions, human resource capacity and budgeting issues. Inclusive transformation of social forestry management is needed to open up the diversity of applications of locally based institutional systems and contextual needs at the regional and site (community) levels, including ensuring the preservation and sustainability of forest areas [9].

Sustainable social forestry management is crucial in Jembrana Regency, given the relatively long licensing period of 35 years. Sustainability strategies have been developed in various ways, from integrating social forestry management into village development, developing markets and market partnerships with the Jembrana Regency Government, to collaborating with development partners (NGO Idep, Oxford University, donors) and corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs (State Electricity Company/PLN). Furthermore, to support KTH collaboration in forestry extension programs, the establishment of Community-Based Forestry Extension Workers (PKSM) is essential for assisting in forestry development activities. Currently, there are 11 registered PKSMs in Jembrana Regency. It is hoped that the number of forestry extension workers and PKSMs in Jembrana Regency will increase in the future.

Collaboration of Indigenous Communities in Social Forestry Management

The communities surrounding the West Bali forest area have a relatively homogeneous social system and structure. This can be seen from the dominant ethnic group that inhabits the area, namely the Balinese Hindu ethnic group. The social system is a social unity based on the unity of the administrative area/territorial (perbekel/kelurahan) which is generally divided into smaller social units, namely banjar and customary territorial which regulates matters of a religious, customary, and other community nature. From the existing social system, village residents can enter into two village memberships or one membership, namely the administrative village government system as an administrative area and/or customary villages where local community life consists of many customary banjar groups.

Constitutional Court Decision No. 35 of 2012 concerning customary forests was the beginning of the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Law Communities (MHA) to customary forests [7]. This

recognition of rights became the basis for establishing Customary Forests as one of the schemes in the Ministry of Forestry's Social Forestry Program [4]. In Jembrana Regency, social forestry with a customary forest scheme was not found, but all KTH members are indigenous people who are sheltered by traditional village institutions that have and uphold local wisdom in managing forests. Indigenous communities play an important role in social forestry as the main actors in forest management through local wisdom and customary law, carrying out forest supervision and protection, and utilizing forests sustainably for community welfare. They also play a role in conflict resolution, maintaining ecosystems, and preserving forest-related culture.

Weaknesses of forest management in Jembrana Regency include the suboptimal function and designation of forest areas due to the existence of critical land in several areas, suboptimal utilization of forest areas, relatively narrow and sporadic production forest areas and directed towards hydrological functions, suboptimal utilization of non-timber forest products and environmental services and forest resources, suboptimal community empowerment, still limited supporting facilities and infrastructure, minimal quality and quantity of human resources, and limited competence in the forestry sector, still weak coordination between forest management institutions, low investment, capital access, and limited budget, incomplete database on forest potential, suboptimal provision of community roles in forest management, still weak law enforcement and implementation of regulations in the forestry sector, there are regulations that are not in accordance with field conditions. Negative external threats to forest management in Jembrana Regency include the high level of community dependence on forests, still high vulnerability to forest disturbances, forest and land fires, low socio-economic conditions and education levels of communities around the forest, land for needs outside the forestry sector continues to increase.

The results of research in the Yehsumbul village forest in Jembrana district showed the lowest socio-cultural dimension sustainability index value compared to other dimensions (52.75%), with the most sensitive attribute being the lack of understanding of forest management and the role of indigenous communities (local wisdom values). Understanding of forest management, especially regarding the application of local wisdom values [10]. In Bali, the role of indigenous communities in managing forests is still limited. Forest management by indigenous communities is limited to forests with customary forest status such as in the customary forest of Tenganan Traditional Village, Karangasem, Bali. The role of indigenous communities in forest management by applying local wisdom values is highly expected in all forest areas. These local wisdom values are Tri Hita Karana and WanaKerti. Tri Hita Karana is a guideline for indigenous communities in maintaining a balanced relationship with nature, while WanaKerti is an effort to maintain the sustainability and sanctity of the forest.

Village forest management in Bali, particularly in the Selat Village Forest in Buleleng Regency, is carried out based on customary law, based on the Tri Hita Karana concept through village customary rules (awig-awig) that regulate the obligations of village communities (krama) to maintain the sustainability and security of village forests [8]. Local wisdom is a sediment of values and norms from the mystical realm of thought, where hidden views of life (philosophy) implied in mythology. This is where humans always give place to the meaning of natural forces [2]. Several customary laws have been implemented in forest management and protection with customary forest schemes [11].

The role of indigenous communities in forest management (local wisdom values) will be more optimal by accommodating indigenous communities as part of social forestry management in the form of customary forest schemes. Considering that in Bali Province all forest areas are bordered by customary villages which are the institutions that oversee indigenous communities, the role of indigenous communities in sustainable forest management should be regulated in Provincial Regulation policies. This regional regulation can accommodate the local wisdom values of forest conservation, namely tri hitakarana, wanakerti (mahawana, tapa wana/wanaprastha, sriwana). This regulation can also be used as a basis for reference for social forestry management proposals to the Ministry of Forestry using customary forest schemes in the forest areas of Bali Province. This Regional Regulation is also intended as a guideline for managing and socializing social forestry management appropriately.

The objectives of forest management in Jembrana district are as follows: controlling the sustainability of forest management from ecological, social, and economic aspects; increasing the accountability of forest management organizations and forest areas; maximizing the potential of non-timber forest products, honey bees, especially nature tourism services, educational tourism, environmentally conscious cultural tourism and protection services for the socio-economic and cultural interests of land and water resource sustainability; improving forest conditions to full stock (full) forest stands; increasing community participation in the development of forest product production and environmental services to improve the standard of living of the community and help solve the problem of poverty in communities around the forest; changing the mindset of the pattern of fulfilling the needs of communities that are highly dependent on forests to a cultivation pattern that can produce economic value, forming networks with districts/cities and stakeholders in order to improve the quality of the environment, socio-cultural and people's economy; maintaining and improving the preservation of flora and fauna diversity and their ecosystems as life supports; implementing forest resource management activities that include forest and land rehabilitation, security, protection and conservation of forest resources, empowering communities in and around forests collaboratively with the aim of improving the welfare of local communities [1].

5. CONCLUSION

Collaborative social forestry management with village forest schemes and forestry partnerships in Jembrana Regency involves Forest Farmer Groups (KTH), indigenous communities, Village Governments, Jembrana Regency Governments, NGOs, universities, State-Owned Enterprises, and the West Bali Forest Management Unit (UPT KPH) as the leading sector, an extension of the Bali Provincial Government. A fundamental requirement is to evaluate the performance of social forestry after permits are issued. Analyzing the independence of social forestry groups is crucial to ensure that community-led forest management is yielding better results. Independence is not only an economic issue, but also concerns the quality of institutions and sustainable forest governance in Jembrana.

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