



Facilitating Conditional Land Tenure in Watershed protection Forest in Indonesia

Background

In many parts of Asia, government controls most of the forest area. Claims to state ownership obstruct local people's access to forest as their important resources for their livelihoods and condemn them to poverty. Land tenure can be an attractive incentive (reward) for farmers to get engaged in sustainable management of protected forest land. The HKm permits granted land rights to the farmers for a 5-year trial period, with possible extensions to beyond 35 years, if they promise to plant multistrata tree systems, conserve remaining natural forest, and practice conservation techniques.



The conditional land tenure can be interpreted as a form of payment for environmental services that uses secure tenure rather than cash payments as a reward for providing environmental services. This can offer a path to both improved livelihoods and protection of forest services

Facilitating process

Conditional Land Right (HKm) for 5 year trial

Through the Negotiation Support System (NSS) and Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services (RUPES), ICRAF has facilitated farmer groups in Sumberjaya, Lampung, Indonesia to obtain conditional land rights.

Step-by-step towards conditional tenure rewards

- Start with trust building and raise farmer awareness to conservation issues.
- Strengthen local institutional capacity
- Identify the champions among government officers who can act as boundary spanner in the negotiation process.
- Synthesises scientific evidence for the environmental protection option is agroforestry



In July 2006, 18 farmer groups received community forestry permits for a 5 year trial. Period this increased the area covered by such permits from 1,367 ha to 11,633 ha (70% of the protection forest is now covered by conditional land use permits). Nearly 6,400 farmers now have permits.

Conversion of Conditional Land Right to 35 year contracts: from local to National level negotiation

ICRAF also assisted in HKm policy formulation and reforms both at local and national government level.

At the local level, ICRAF, farmer group representatives, the local NGO Watala, Universities and, local government units of West Lampung District urged Conditional Land Right security concerns to negotiation rooms through following activities.

- Policy update focus group discussion at village level
- Regular dialogs and policy formulation at district level and up streaming to national negotiation process.
- Formulation and agreement on Criteria and Indicator (C&I) of HKm Monitoring and Evaluation.



At the end of 2005, a comprehensive set of C&I was approved by local government and issued as local policy stipulating accountable steps to gain Conditional Land Right for 35 years. Then at December 2007, the Minister of Forestry gave Conditional Land Right for 35 years to 5 farmer groups of Sumberjaya covering area of 1,367 ha). This is the first HKm contract for 35 years duration in Indonesia.

Criteria Indicator for Monitoring and National Policy Reforms

The Ministry of Forestry (MoF) recognized the lessons learned from HKm works in Sumberjaya as a part of the current best practices in community based forest management. The Criteria and Indicator (C&I) of HKm Monitoring and Evaluation in West Lampung were adopted to reform national HKm policy of which ICRAF engaged in this process. At December 2007, the MoF issued a new and advanced HKm Policy containing a set of more accountable procedure to gain HKm permit. With this new policy and previous success of HKm works, the MoF set a national plan to enlarge the HKm area to 400,000 ha over Indonesia which should be realized in 2008. About 80,000 ha of that area is situated in Lampung province.