

COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA:

A Dual Objective for Climate Change and Social Justice

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Background

Community-based forest management (CBFM) schemes in Indonesia were initiated in 1995 with the goal of providing greater access to communities to manage forests sustainably and to increase their socio-economic welfare. CBFM schemes are mostly managed by using multi-purpose vegetation systems or agroforestry systems. CBFM has also been recognized in recent years as a mechanism to effectively mitigate climate change while involving forest-dependent communities. The CBFM schemes objectives are therefore twofold: 1), contribute to climate change mitigation and forest protection and 2), improve social justice.

Can these two objectives go along hand in hand or create problems?

Facts from studied selected sites; Jambi, West Kalimantan

- Based on regulations, the area for CBFM can be allocated in protected and production forests. The newly revised regulation will also cover conservation forest area. However, in the implementation most of the activities tend to focus on protection of the areas instead of benefit-generating activities, even in production forest areas.
- Community governance through CBFM can realize and secure communal rights and protect the resources against outsiders and external claims. However the schemes management is not aligned and integrated with general development. Communities are seen as agents of conservation and forest management.
- Granting CBFM without considering traditional boundaries, local and customary rights is leading to contentious and conflict among stakeholders involved (including customary and local communities, migrants, local governments, central government).
- There is no common vision of CBFM and its management including agreements on roles, rights and responsibilities prior to granting of the licenses.
- Access to forest areas and forest resources are not equal among the people involved.
- Community elites tend to benefit more than others. Rules and mechanism for investment and equitable distribution of benefit from CBFM are not clear.
- Lack of support by local community to implement the CBFM scheme.
- People are not equally aware of the existence and implications of CBFM and the role of the CBFM committee that is mandated for the management of the scheme.

State –sponsored Community Based Forest Management schemes in Indonesia

CBFM Scheme	Certainty of Tenure	Regulations
Community Forest (HKm - Hutan Kemasyarakatan)	License for utilization of community forests (35years)	P. 88/Menhut-II/2014
Village Forest (HD - Hutan Desa)	Right of Village Forest Management (35 years)	P.89/Menhut-II/2014
Private Community Forest (HTR –Hutan Tanaman Rakyat)	License for utilization of timber forest products – Private Community Forest	P.55/Menhut-II/2011, P.3/Menhut-ii/2012, P.04/VI-BUHT/2012, P.05/VI-BUHT/2012
Community Forest (HR – Hutan Rakyat)	Private/Personal right (Hak milik)	
Adat Forest (Hutan Adat)	Communal right	MK 35/PUU-X/2012



Village Forest in Senamat Hulu/Jambi (Photo: Sébastien de Royer)

Challenges:

1. Government levels: continuous policy changes, conflicting responsibilities between central and local governments, lack of budget are limiting village communities to benefit from the scheme.
2. Access to non-timber forest products do not represent substantial economical benefit; people want better and alternative livelihoods and infrastructure investments for the village.
3. Risk of elite capture by committee members who are negotiating with third parties to be involved in the scheme.
4. Lack of community support, monitoring and clear responsibilities have lead to poor progress in sustaining forest.
5. Without free, prior and informed consent there might be conflicts between individual interests and the exception from CBFM.