

The Phenomenon of Community Forestry Program and Forest Management in Dompu Regency, NTB, Indonesia

Muhdar¹, Gufran D Dirawan², Muhammad Wiharto³

¹(Sekolah Menengah Atas Negeri 2, Dompu, Indonesia)

²(Civil Engineering Study Program, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia)

³(Biology Study Program, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia)

Abstract:

Background: The Community Forestry Program (*Hutan Kemasyarakatan/HKm*) is a government program that does not merely provide an alternative so that communities around the forest can manage forests. The success of this community forestry activities is largely determined by the accuracy of planning, the readiness of community institutions, and the support of the Regional Government.

Materials and Methods: This study uses a qualitative phenomenological approach. The qualitative approach was chosen because the object of this research is a process of activity or action, namely community forestry management, and forest sustainability. The informants are members of the Community Forestry area management group, supporting NGOs, field assistants/extensions, the NTB Provincial Forestry and Environment Service, teachers in subjects related to Population and Environmental Education, and the Tourism Office.

Results: Based on observations and interviews, there is a tendency for people to use forest areas that are *Hkm* areas which are still far from the concept of sustainable forest management. Community behavior in *HKm* forest management is considered the same as farming activities in general. The community's misinterpretation has caused several groups to cut down forests sporadically.

Conclusion: The *HKm* Management needs assistance from Non-Governmental Organizations, *HKm* management planning needs to go through several stages, namely socialization, group formation, determination of area boundaries, division of land for each group, and proposal for Community Forestry permits.

Key Word: Community Forestry, Management, Forest Area, Land, Community Self-Help.

Date of Submission: 20-06-2022

Date of Acceptance: 03-07-2022

I. Introduction

The Community Forestry Program (*Hutan Kemasyarakatan/HKm*) is an Indonesian government program that not only provides an alternative for forest communities to manage forests but also provides opportunities and trust for communities to work together with various parties to fully manage forest resources so that later people's welfare can be achieved by always paying attention to efforts to preserve nature (Dewi et al., 2019; Sompaa, 2021; Yanti et al., 2018). The success of Community Forestry activities is largely determined by the accuracy of planning, the readiness of community institutions, and the support of the Regional Government (Sapkota et al., 2020, 2021). Nationally, the implementation of the *HKm* concept has been developed in 22 provinces with a total area of around 448,217 Ha, consisting of the proposed area of *HKm* (162,112.91 Ha), *HKm* development area (208,327 Ha), work area (55,420 Ha) and areas granted a temporary permit (62,357 Ha) (Muhdar et al., 2018). In Dompu Regency, NTB is one of the regencies targeted by *HKm* program with an area of *HKm* is 4020.89Ha covering four sub-districts, namely, Dompu, Pajo, Manggelewa, and Kempo sub-districts which consist of five *HKm* blocks, namely Blocks: Kesi, Tolo Kalo, Lara, Ncuhi, and Pajo. So the purpose of this research is to determine the extent of community land use in community forestry programs and the extent to which local government involvement in community forest management in Dompu Regency, NTB is in line with the Indonesian government's national planning.

II. Material And Methods

This study uses a qualitative phenomenological approach. The qualitative approach was chosen because the object of this research is a process of activity or action (Mohajan, 2018; Riley et al., 2019; Tomaszewski et al., 2020), namely community forest management and forest sustainability from March 2019 to April 2020. The informants are members of the Community Forestry area management group, supporting

NGOs, field assistants/extensions, the NTB Provincial Forestry and Environment Service, teachers in subjects related to Population and Environmental Education, and the Tourism Office.

Data collection technique (Dittrich, 2021; Rooshenas et al., 2019):

1. Observation
The data that has been obtained is documented through recording on the observation sheet.
2. Semi-structured interview
Interviewing and collecting data from informants
3. Documentation
Collect the data/documents, visual materials, and search online data related to the Community Forestry program in Dompu Regency

Validity checking technique(Kankaraš et al., 2019; MAH, 2017)

The process of validating the data carried out by research is the triangulation of sources or comparing answers to questions from various sources of informants.

Data analysis technique (Saleh, 2017; Vabalas et al., 2019)

1. Data collection
Recording the results of observations, interviews and documentation in the form of field notes and grouping the results.
2. Data reduction
Simplification, classifying and removing unnecessary data in such a way that the data can produce meaningful information and facilitate drawing conclusions.
3. Data display
The form of presentation of qualitative data can be in the form of narrative text. With this presentation, it is easy for researchers to organize and compile patterns of relationships between the foods studied.
4. Verification
The research on the suitability of the data, the suitability of the data with the intent contained in the basic concept of the analysis, which is more precise and objective.
5. Conclusion
Simple writing about the meaning revealed in the interview results.

III. Result

A. Utilization of the Community Forestry area in Dompu Regency

The community forestry in Dompu Regency is a state forest that allows it to be managed by the community with a community empowerment mechanism without disturbing its main function. The Community Forestry (*Hutan Kemasyarakatan/HKm*) is intended for poor communities who live in and around forest areas and depend on forest resources for their livelihoods (Nilashi et al., 2018; Rakatama & Pandit, 2020). However, based on observations and information obtained, the community forest area in Dompu Regency has generally been managed by the community prior to the establishment of HKm. As a result, land management activities are considered illegal.

The main livelihoods of HKm managers in Dompu Regency are forest farmers. This cannot be separated from the condition that most of the area is forest and garden area. That there are 20 million people who live in villages around the forest and six million people of whom the source of their livelihood comes from the forest (Antonelli et al., 2020; Hum, 2022). Trace the use of land in the Community Forestry area by forest farmers involved in the Community Forest program can be seen from the results of the researcher's interviews with the following respondents:

“Generally, farmers here grow corn because they can get results quickly, and usually, farmers harvest corn in four months and it is easy to sell to the market” (Ndn, June 5, 2019)

“I have been cultivating land in this area for more than ten years by planting corn. This planting can provide fast results according to the economic needs of farmers.” (Imr, June 8, 2019)

“All farmers receive corn seed assistance from the government, so it is not difficult for us to plant corn on our land” (Amd, June 9, 2019)

“The instructor once taught us to cultivate the land before planting corn. We do the processing using a tractor and some use a hoe, but there are also farmers who plant immediately after clearing the land” (Jdn, June 10, 2019)

“I always work with my family to manage the land in turn we help each other in clearing and tractor land for planting” (Smd, June14, 2019).

“Due to limited manpower and money, we help each other in cultivating the land. For that, we arrange a time for land preparation so that we can help each other” (Mkr, June 15, 2019).

The results of the interview above illustrate that farmers generally use their land by planting corn and before planting corn seeds, the processing is done by hoeing and using a tractor. This conclusion is reinforced by the triangulation results obtained from interviews with four informants as follows:

“Farmers here get free corn seeds from the government so we don't have to buy seeds. But they have to buy fertilizers at high prices and they say they are not subsidized by the government” (Aln, July 8, 2019)

“I've been cultivating this land since 2013. Since then I've been growing corn to meet my family's needs. I feel that the sale of corn is only enough for the family's food needs. I also have never tried to plant other crops such as rice because the water is difficult and the rice seeds are not suitable” (Mtd, July9, 2019)

“This land is generally only planted with corn during the rainy season and after the corn harvest, the land is left uncultivated. As a result, the land is overgrown with shrubs and will be cleaned again at the time of the planting season” (Abk, July 20, 2019)

“I and my friends here can only plant corn on the land because of water shortages, no one has tried other crops such as peanuts because they are worried that it will be difficult to grow” (Slh, July 22, 2019)

Thus, the community utilizes their arable land with seasonal crops, namely planting corn, this is supported by the assistance of corn seeds provided by the government. While other types of plants such as rice or soybeans, the community does not do because they fear it will be difficult to grow. The community's understanding of the HKm program is interpreted as an opportunity to obtain land tenure rights in forest areas as a source of the family economy (Malakar et al., 2018; Polizel et al., 2021). As a result, people tend to behave in an exploratory manner to maximize the economic benefits of the land.

B. Community Forestry Management Planning in Dompu . Regency

The stages of HKm management planning in Dompu Regency were found based on interviews with officials from the Dompu Regency Environment and Forestry Service, forestry extension workers, and supporting NGOs. The results of the interviews illustrate that the first step in preparing a management permit is socialization.

The socialization carried out in a collective form was carried out at the village office and some was carried out personally from house to house (Vicol et al., 2018). The purpose of the socialization activity is to introduce the land management permit model and its requirements. The description is also revealed in the following triangulation results:

“As extension workers, they are assigned to hold meetings with community groups working on the land” (T M, the extension workers, April 8, 2019)

“The NGO is tasked with introducing the community forestry model to the people who cultivate the land. We also convey what are the requirements for the community to get a land management permit” (Mtk, NGO, April 15, 2019)

Based on the description above, the local government of Dompu Regency facilitated the birth of a forest farmer group consisting of farmers working on forest land in the production forest area. The purpose of the formation of this group is not only as an administrative requirement but also as an administrative requirement, the government also expects cooperation between people who have the same profession and interests in utilizing natural resources. In addition, the group is easy to coordinate to increase access to technology and market capital resources.

The next process is the preparation of the organizational structure of the farmer group, this is done to organize the farmer group and also assign responsibilities to the members of the farmer group. The interview results obtained are as follows:

“The process of forming and compiling the organizational structure is accompanied by extension workers and accompanying NGOs” (Tfn, forestry extension worker, March 4, 2019).

“One of the organizational structures is for the division of tasks and responsibilities for each HKm manager” (Amr, Department of Environment and Forestry, March 12, 2019)

“One of our duties as a companion NGO is to assist farmer groups in preparing the organizational structure and explain the duties of each member in the organizational structure” (AE, NGO, March 8, 2019)

From the results of the interviews above, it was revealed that the process of forming the organization and preparing the organizational structure was accompanied by forestry extension workers and supporting NGOs. In addition, the facilitators also explained the goals and benefits of establishing an organization and organizational structure.

After compiling the organizational structure, the village government together with accompanying NGOs will determine the area of land that will be managed by each member. The determination of the land area is carried out so that the people who will manage the land understand which lands can be cultivated and which cannot (Obie et al., 2019). Determining area boundaries, dividing the land for each group, and proposing Community Forestry permits as a triangulation material for the conclusions drawn, the researchers conducted interviews with the following two informants:

“The determination of the proposed permit area begins with data collection on the area of land managed in production forests. Next, a sketch of the location is made and the total area of the proposed land is divided equally among the farmers so that it does not cause conflict” (Mtk, NGO, April 15, 2019)

“As an extension worker, I am tasked with collecting data in the form of land area and land conditions that have been previously cultivated by the community. The data is then distributed to the Forestry Service to be used as the basis for determining the area of land to be managed by each member.” (TM, extension worker, April 8, 2019).

The results of the interviews above strengthen the conclusion that the determination of the area of land to be managed by each member will make it easier for members of the farmer group to know the boundaries of land rights to be managed.

Land mapping will show clear boundaries between the cultivated land of each group and each group member. Land measurement and mapping are carried out through participatory joint measurement and mapping between the community and assistants accompanied by the coordinates and boundaries of the administrative area (Hannah et al., 2020). In addition, the determination of the area of land to be managed is also a legal requirement for land management. During the permit application process, the community was provided with assistance by the applicable procedures as revealed in the following interviews with respondents:

“The HKm policy provides an opportunity for the community to obtain a forest management permit for 35 years. Community groups, also known as forest farmer groups, have the right to obtain forest use permits in production forest areas. For this area, the community is given a permit to use forest products in the form of wood in the production forest area” (Amr, Environment and Forestry Service, March 12, 2019).

“Our agency was assigned the task of the forestry service to assist the community in obtaining field community forest management permits” (AE, NGO, March 8, 2019).

“We invite the community to participate in the process of obtaining a business permit for the use of community forestry through forest farmer groups. The permit does not provide the widest opportunity to utilize forest products, but the community is given knowledge about solving economic problems while taking into account the condition of forest quality” (Tfn, Forestry Extension, March 4, 2019).

The triangulation results were obtained from the interviews of two informants as follows:

“We are active in assisting the community to determine the boundaries of the area that can be managed and helping to complete the necessary administrative requirements”. (Mtk, NGO, April 15, 2019)

“As an extension worker, I was assigned to provide an overview of the importance of permits in the management of community forest areas. I also explained the procedures for obtaining forest management permits”. (TM, extension worker, April 8, 2019)

Through the process of obtaining a Community Forest Utilization Business Permit, which is assisted by an NGO facilitated by the Environment and Forestry Service, the community has easy access to obtaining permits for managing forests legally.

IV. Discussion

Most of the people involved in the Community Forestry program in Dompu Regency are people who have been managing forests illegally in areas that have now been designated as Community Forestry areas, the rest are people recruited when the program will be rolled out. Government Regulation No. 6 of 2007 concerning Forest Management and Formulation of Forest Management Plans and Forest Utilization states that in order to obtain optimal and fair benefits of forest resources, local communities must be empowered, through capacity building and providing access to improve their welfare (Aditya et al., 2021). One form of local community empowerment can be done one of them through Community Forestry (*Hutan Kemasyarakatan/HKm*).

At the planning stage of Community Forestry in Dompu Regency, forest farmers have begun to be involved. The involvement started from the socialization process, group formation, determination of area boundaries, land distribution for each group, and each group to the process of proposing Community Forestry permits. The socialization was carried out collectively at the village office and some were carried out personally from house to house, where this socialization aimed to introduce a model of land management permits, requirements and rights, and obligations. From the time of determination and mapping to the process of dividing the area of the block to be managed to the process of obtaining permits, forest farmers are directly involved and carried out in a transparent manner. With the direct involvement of forest farmers, maximum results can be obtained because it can avoid conflicts (Cahyana, 2020).

One of the elements that provide assistance in the Community Forest program is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The involvement of NGOs as facilitators by the government is regulated in the Procedures and Procedures for the Development of Community-Based Forest Management Programs contained in Law Number 41 of 1999 (Chapman et al., 2019). This is in line with what was stated (Kurniasih et al., 2021; ROBIN et al., 2022) which states that to improve the implementation of HKm, community empowerment both individually and institutionally must be built so that people have awareness and ability to manage forests sustainably. Assistance from NGOs, universities, government, and other stakeholders is also needed so that farmers can implement HKm properly.

The involvement of NGOs in community forest management planning in Dompu Regency was felt to be very helpful, the accompanying NGOs provided assistance starting from mobilizing forest farmers during socialization at the Village Office, to the process of fulfilling the requirements for the permit application process by forest farmers. In addition, assisting NGOs provides assistance in the process of preparing work programs, HKm area management planning is aligned with area utilization for the development of timber and non-timber plant species in HKm work areas as well as in the form of institutional strengthening of forest farmer groups that manage community forestry areas. Institutional strengthening of forest farmer groups is very important as revealed by (Kuncoro & Cahyani, 2018) that institutional development of farmer groups, land, and entrepreneurship are three important keys to achieving HKm goals, namely to improve community welfare and maintain forest sustainability.

From the findings on Community Forestry management in Dompu Regency as described above, it can be concluded that success at the stage of the socialization process until the issuance of the Community Forestry Management Business Permit was not followed by success at the implementation stage of its management. Society is more economically oriented and the importance of ecological sustainability has been neglected. Political intervention and the lack of budget and human resources so that monitoring and evaluation are not carried out further exacerbate the situation and cause massive forest destruction in the Community Forest area. The ecological function of the forest is lost, there is a threat of flooding in the downstream area every rainy season. According to (Maryudi et al., 2022) within a period of six years, community involvement through the HKm program is contrary to the ecological conditions of forest areas.

V. Conclusion

1. The use of community land in the community forest program is dominated by corn plants and farmers also use wood forest products or non-timber forest products such as logs and firewood. This activity was carried out due to the lack of monitoring and evaluation as well as the absence of firmness and sanctions given to community forestry managers.
2. Community forest management planning in Dompu Regency is assisted by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which are carried out through socialization, formation of groups to determine area boundaries, division of land for each group, and proposal for Community Forest permits.

References

- [1]. Dewi IK, Abdullah LOD, Zeldi LMR, Andara D, Ramadhan FM, Lembang H. The role of forestry police in the prevention and Eradication Of Forest Destruction. In: Iop Conference Series: Earth And Environmental Science. Iop Publishing; 2019. P. 012130.
- [2]. Sompaa At. Tourism Management In Tahura Sultan Adam (Case Study In Mandiangin Timur Village And Mandiangin Barat). 2021;
- [3]. Yanti R, Syahza A, Hidir A, Suwondo S. The Communication Model Of Forest Management Based On Environmental Awareness. Management Of Environmental Quality: An International Journal. 2018;
- [4]. Sapkota Lm, Dhungana H, Poudyal Bh, Chapagain B, Gritten D. Understanding The Barriers To Community Forestry Delivering On Its Potential: An Illustration From Two Heterogeneous Districts In Nepal. Environmental Management. 2020;65(4):463–77.
- [5]. Sapkota Lm, Jihadah L, Sato M, Greijmans M, Wiset K, Aektasaeng N, Et Al. Translating Global Commitments Into Action For Successful Forest Landscape Restoration: Lessons From Ing Watershed In Northern Thailand. Land Use Policy. 2021;104:104063.
- [6]. Muhdar M, Dirawan Gd, Wiharto M. Gambaran Pengelolaan (Hutan Kemasyarakatan) Hkm Di Indonesia. Unm Environmental Journals. 2018;2(1):18–23.
- [7]. Tomaszewski Le, Zarestky J, Gonzalez E. Planning Qualitative Research: Design And Decision Making For New Researchers. International Journal Of Qualitative Methods. 2020;19:1609406920967174.
- [8]. Riley S, Brooks J, Goodman S, Cahill S, Branney P, Treharne Gj, Et Al. Celebrations Amongst Challenges: Considering The Past, Present And Future Of The Qualitative Methods In Psychology Section Of The British Psychology Society. Qualitative Research In Psychology. 2019;
- [9]. Mohajan Hk. Qualitative Research Methodology In Social Sciences And Related Subjects. Journal Of Economic Development, Environment And People. 2018;7(1):23–48.
- [10]. Rooshenas L, Paramasivan S, Jepson M, Donovan JI. Intensive Triangulation Of Qualitative Research And Quantitative Data To Improve Recruitment To Randomized Trials: The Quintet Approach. Qualitative Health Research. 2019;29(5):672–9.
- [11]. Dittrich K. Ethnography And Routine Dynamics. Cambridge Handbook Of Routine Dynamics. 2021;103–29.
- [12]. Mah Dd. Factual And Exist Among Lecturers Education Depar Praanggapan Fak. 2017;
- [13]. Kankaraš M, Feron E, Renbarger R. Assessing Students' Social And Emotional Skills Through Triangulation Of Assessment Methods. 2019;
- [14]. Saleh S. Analisis Data Kualitatif. Pustaka Ramadhan, Bandung; 2017.
- [15]. Vabalas A, Gowen E, Poliakoff E, Casson Aj. Machine Learning Algorithm Validation With A Limited Sample Size. Plos One. 2019;14(11):E0224365.
- [16]. Nilashi M, Ibrahim O, Bagherifard K. A Recommender System Based On Collaborative Filtering Using Ontology And Dimensionality Reduction Techniques. Expert Systems With Applications. 2018;92:507–20.
- [17]. Rakatama A, Pandit R. Reviewing Social Forestry Schemes In Indonesia: Opportunities And Challenges. Forest Policy And Economics. 2020;111:102052.
- [18]. Hum Wm. An Overview To The History Of Social Forestry In Overcoming Poverty And Forest Conservation In Java's Colonial Period. Journal Of Forest And Environmental Science. 2022;38(1):1–11.
- [19]. Antonelli A, Smith Rj, Fry C, Simmonds Ms, Kersey Pj, Pritchard Hw, Et Al. State Of The World's Plants And Fungi [Phd Thesis]. Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew); Sfumato Foundation; 2020.
- [20]. Malakar Y, Greig C, Van De Fliert E. Resistance In Rejecting Solid Fuels: Beyond Availability And Adoption In The Structural Dominations Of Cooking Practices In Rural India. Energy Research & Social Science. 2018;46:225–35.
- [21]. Polizel Sp, Vieira Rm Da Sp, Pompeu J, Da Cruz Ferreira Y, De Sousa-Neto Er, Barbosa Aa, Et Al. Analysing The Dynamics Of Land Use In The Context Of Current Conservation Policies And Land Tenure In The Cerrado–Matopiba Region (Brazil). Land Use Policy. 2021;109:105713.
- [22]. Vicol M, Pritchard B, Htay Yy. Rethinking The Role Of Agriculture As A Driver Of Social And Economic Transformation In Southeast Asia's Upland Regions: The View From Chin State, Myanmar. Land Use Policy. 2018;72:451–60.
- [23]. Obie M, Yusuf Ids, Sumai S. Empowerment Of Palm Sugar Peasants At The Forest Edge Of Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, Indonesia: A Study Of Problems, Local Potentials, And Priority Ideas Towards Empowered Community. Environment And Natural Resources Research. 2019;9(1):77–90.
- [24]. Hannah L, Roehrdanz Pr, Kc Kb, Fraser Ed, Donatti Ci, Saenz L, Et Al. The Environmental Consequences Of Climate-Driven Agricultural Frontiers. Plos One. 2020;15(2):E0228305.
- [25]. Aditya T, Santosa Pb, Yulaikhah Y, Widjajanti N, Atunggal D, Sulistyawati M. Validation And Collaborative Mapping To Accelerate Quality Assurance Of Land Registration. Land Use Policy. 2021;109:105689.
- [26]. Cahyana In. Pengelolaan Hutan Negara Untuk Ekowisata Bagi Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Desa Sukasari Kabupaten Pandeglang. Hukum Pidana Dan Pembangunan Hukum. 2020;2(2).
- [27]. Chapman M, Satterfield T, Chan Km. When Value Conflicts Are Barriers: Can Relational Values Help Explain Farmer Participation In Conservation Incentive Programs? Land Use Policy. 2019;82:464–75.
- [28]. Robin R, Ngadino A, Arifin Mz. Sanksi Administrasi Atas Pelanggaran Terhadap Kewajiban Rehabilitasi Hutan Berdasarkan Asas Contrarius Actus [Phd Thesis]. Sriwijaya University; 2022.
- [29]. Kurniasih H, Ford Rm, Keenan Rj, King B. The Evolution Of Community Forestry Through The Growth Of Interlinked Community Institutions In Java, Indonesia. World Development. 2021;139:105319.
- [30]. Kuncoro M, Cahyani Df. Performance Of Social Forestry On Farmers' Revenues: Lessons From Yogyakarta And Lampung, Indonesia. The Business & Management Review. 2018;9(4):275–89.
- [31]. Maryudi A, Sahide Mak, Daulay Mh, Yuniati D, Syafitri W, Sadiyo S, Et Al. Holding Social Forestry Hostage In Indonesia: Contested Bureaucracy Mandates And Potential Escape Pathways. Environmental Science & Policy. 2022;128:142–53.