



National Workshop Report
COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST CONSERVATION
IN CONCESSION AREAS:
IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS TO SOCIAL ISSUES
AND THE LESSONS LEARNED
Pontianak, West Kalimantan, 02 July 2015

Introduction

The national workshop with the theme “Konservasi Hutan Berbasis Masyarakat di Areal Konsesi: Identifikasi Solusi Permasalahan Sosial dan Pembelajaran” (or “Community-Based Forest Conservation in Concession Areas: Identifying Solutions to Social Issues and the Lessons Learned”) was held as a collaboration between Sawit Watch and Greenpeace, with the support of the HCS Steering Group. The lengthy and intense discussion by Sawit Watch and Greenpeace after RSPO RT12 in Malaysia led to a joint idea for an activity to explore the community’s local wisdom in land protection.

The workshop’s general objective is to understand how community’s patterns or ways of protecting their forest can be implemented by other stakeholders (companies) in their efforts to conserve or protect certain areas in company concessions. The workshop is expected to lead those involved in the oil palm plantation industry to respect traditional wisdom and able to implement this wisdom. Several things can be done to achieve this, such as identifying inhibiting factors and actors to community participation in conservation or protection, and the legal or policy breakthroughs that can be made to support communities in conservation.

The workshop participants come from various organizations, such as social NGOs, environmental NGOs, plantation labour union, government, private sector, academics, and consultants.

This workshop began with an opening statement from Sawit Watch’s Executive Director, followed by a panel discussion (first session) and group discussion (second session). The first session was facilitated by Mr. A.W. Boyce. The session presented talks by FFI, PT SMART Tbk, Sawit Watch, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), and sharing experiences by communities who have implemented conservation



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and protection efforts. In the second session, participants were divided into two groups with Mr. Joko Waluyo as facilitator. During the discussion, the facilitator gave each group three key questions to discuss and present.

Opening

In his opening speech, Mr. Jefri G. Saragih emphasized the importance of the participants present to understand and respect rights to cultivate. Furthermore, he hoped that through this workshop, the obstacles and disagreements between communities and companies can be addressed and all stakeholders must respect one another.

Panel Discussion

In the panel discussion, each speaker shared interesting ideas and inputs for the participants based on the speakers' experiences and views. The points shared are expected to help stakeholders to find alternative solutions in community-based conservation issues in the concession areas.

- **Darmawan Liswanto (Flora dan Fauna International)**

Mr. Liswanto explained about HCV and HCS through his presentation titled "Pengelolaan HCV dan HCS dalam Areal Kebun Sawit, Isu Teknis dan Kebijakan" ("HCV and HCS Management in Oil Palm Plantation: Technical Issues and Policies").

An important point in his presentation was about Law No. 5 of 1990, especially regarding essential habitat. In his opinion, this law does not explain the responsibilities to protect, and thus there are no legal consequences to violations of the law.

Another emphasis in Mr. Liswanto's presentation is on sustainability and the urgency for serious conservation effort to ensure life on earth. All stakeholders must work together to turn this sustainability dream into a reality and trust must be built among the stakeholders to reduce or eliminate potential conflict.



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- **Haskarlianus Pasang (Director of Sustainability, PT Smart Tbk)**

Mr. Pasang shared a presentation on “Tantangan yang Dihadapi Perusahaan dalam Implementasi Kebijakan Konservasi Hutan” (“Challenges Faced by Companies in Implementing Forest Conservation Policies”). He explained PT SMART’s early stages in developing its Forest Conservation policies, assisted by TFT and Greenpeace. The policies developed are conservation, social, and sustainability policies, and a landscape approach. The presentation also described PT SMART’s participatory mapping with the community as a form of the company’s support for the village government. The challenges that PT SMART faces in policy implementation are environmental awareness, community conservation education, land ownership status issues, recognition of conservation initiatives, and the commitments of the government and other stakeholders.

- **Agustinus Karlo Lumban Raja (Head of Environmental Department, Sawit Watch)**

In his presentation titled “Kontestasi Konservasi dalam Konservasi” (“The Conservation Controversy in Concessions”), Mr. Lumban Raha highlighted market policies and community’s needs. He stated the policies that companies establish are merely to meet market demands. The fundamental difference is that communities protect certain areas according to their needs and traditional wisdom, and meanwhile companies would try to compromise and relieve themselves from the main objective as a profit-maker by prioritizing market interests.

He also underlined the need for a corrective mechanism in implementing policies. Civil society is not the primary party who can or cannot accept policies because they are the connectors, but the most important thing is how the community and company can work hand in hand.



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- **Wiratno (Director of Social Forestry Development)**

Mr. Wiratno presented a talk on “Percepatan Akses Kelola Masyarakat Provinsi Kalimantan Barat” (“Expediting Community Management Access in West Kalimantan Province”). An important point in his presentation was on government policy to prepare 12.7 ha land for communities as part of the President’s Nawa Cita program to develop Indonesia from its periphery. He also shared about community’s change to register an area for permit and all utilization in accordance with community’s needs through Village Forest, Community Forest, Customary Forest, or Community Plantation Forest mechanisms.

On the note of conservation in plantations, Mr. Wiratno stated that this can be done by registering the site to the government (in this case, MoEF) to obtain license. The speaker also presented a challenge to the workshop participants to determine a pilot site and the MoEF guarantees its implementation.

Sharing Community Experience

This session was held by inviting three community representatives to share their experiences from Sintang, Pontianak, and Riau.

- **Rafael Syamsudin (indigenous community member)**

Mr. Syamsudin spoke on the issue of AMDAL (Environmental Impact Assessment) as requirement for government license. The speaker felt that the companies’ AMDAL documents are engineered and do not represent actual conditions. This must be corrected and licensing process must be made more stringent. Another point in Mr. Syamsudin’s presentation was on the need to respect community’s right to manage and not all APL (Other Land Use Area) can be developed because there are communities in the APL and communication is needed.

- **Tanja (Community representative from Sintang, West Kalimantan)**

Mr. Tanja highlighted the importance of focusing on communities instead of focusing on the conservation aspect only.



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- **Dahlan (Community member from Dosan Village, Riau)**

Mr. Dahlan shared the community's experiences before and after oil palm plantation development in Dosan Village. Before oil palm plantation development, the community lived in adequacy. After the plantation establishment, however, community members were able to make IDR 3 million to 5 million a month. Another important point is for companies to embrace communities and work together, and not push them away. Furthermore, Mr. Dahlan explained that after the plantation development the community's social life was still well maintained, with the forest protected and undisturbed. One way to ensure that the village forest remains undisturbed is to pass Village Regulations that bind all stakeholders in the village.

The session on sharing the community's lessons learned was followed by a question and answer session with the participants.

The following are several questions asked.

- West Kalimantan GAPKI (Gabungan Pengusaha Kelapa Sawit Indonesia or Indonesian Palm Oil Association). The participant underlined the importance of government in ensuring community welfare and protecting Indonesia's wildlife. In addition, synergy between national agencies and ministries are needed to avoid problems during implementation processes.
- Rudi Lamuru from LINKS spoke about the challenges in managing a "blessing" from oil palm plantations. He stated that there is much pressure from outside of Indonesia as well as stakeholders' interests, including NGOs. It is possible that these interests do not truly represent those of the communities but instead come from certain parties.
- Heru Komarudin from CIFOR spoke about government's recognition of HCV and HCV. According to Mr. Komarudin, ISPO has yet to focus on these issues and currently Indonesia has no regulations on HCS. Heru asked whether there are challenges in ensuring that forest conservation policies can be well internalized and whether PT SMART has experiences on abandoned land regarding HCS.



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- Kasmita Widodo (WGII) stressed the need of a documentation process for undetected areas outside of forests. Through documentation, these areas can be published and monitored directly by many parties.
- Herwin Nasution from SERBUNDO emphasized how labourers can work in synergy with companies for various interests for mutual future development.
- Daud Darsono, PT SMART's President Director, spoke about the CPO produced by companies in Indonesia. Most (20 million tons) are exported abroad, so like it not companies must follow applicable international standards. On PT SMART's HCS implementation, Mr. Darsono explained that they have done socialization to all stakeholders, including NGOs, companies and government. He recommended the need to sit with MoEF to facilitate licensing process so that abandoned land can be exchanged in accordance with their land use.
- Rafael Syamsudin, an indigenous person from Sintang District, highlighted the need for the direct involvement of indigenous peoples. By protecting and involving indigenous peoples, they will feel more respected, empowered, and considered.
- Bambang Dwilaksono from GAPKI asked about GAR's HCS development and whether the HCS established sites can be maintained and whether there are reductions in HCS area based on the initial establishment.
- Agustin Lumangkun, a lecturer from Tanjungpura University, said that something is forgotten in social, economic and environmental discussion because the economy moves so rapidly, social issues decelerate, and the environment is ignored. In addition, there is a need for socialization to communities from the early stages, as well as to determine who will carry out socialization process.



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Group Discussion

During the group discussion, the participants are divided into two groups to discuss the following key questions shared by the facilitator.

1. How are the conservation model and practices among communities?
2. Are there any issues or challenges faced in conservation in APL? Why?
3. What must stakeholders improve or do in the future?

Group Discussion Results

Group I

- The importance of community-based management.
- Decree of Minister of Agrarian and Spatial Planning BPN No. 9 of 2015 concerning Procedures to Determine Indigenous People's Communal Rights and Communities that May be Inside Certain Areas, can be used as basis for supporting community's efforts in managing forests within concession areas.
- AMDAL is important to determine a land's sustainability.
- Carry out site protection based on zoning (an example practiced in Utik River).
- The importance of joint participatory mapping with communities, and the maps produced can be used as baseline in village development and to avoid open conflicts between communities and companies.
- When companies enter a community's land and identify HCS sites, they must undertake certain approaches with the community and explain that these sites must be protected in accordance to applicable customary regulations.
- Areas in the concession identified as HCS are also included as part of the PBB (Land and Building Tax) paid by the company.



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Group II

- There is a need for socialization to communities on HCS and to invite communities to be involved in protecting areas identified as HCS based on the community's forest protection habits.
- Participatory mapping is done prior to HCS/HCS area determination, and therefore communities can determine whether the said area will be developed as plantation or HCS and HCV.
- The community representation model is not representative, and therefore must involve all of the impacted communities.
- Duration of socialisation process (FPIC) must be determined, because often conducting the same socialization process can become intimidating to communities.