



Implementation of Social Forestry Management in Forest Areas with Special Management

(Relevant Policy of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation Number 4 of 2023 at KTH Sendang Agung Rejo (SAR) 2, Sogo Village, Kedungtuban District, Blora Regency, Central Java Province)

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ABSTRACT

Social Forestry (SF) is fundamentally designed to enhance community welfare while promoting environmental sustainability. Ministerial Regulation of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) No. 4 of 2023 seeks to accelerate the governance of Social Forestry programs with the dual aim of advancing local livelihoods and preserving forest ecosystems. The regulation is envisioned as a mechanism for fostering economic equity and creating better livelihood opportunities for rural communities. This research specifically explores two core inquiries: first, how the aforementioned regulation is being implemented on the ground; and second, the extent to which local Forest Farmer Groups (Kelompok Tani Hutan or KTH) possess the institutional capacity to manage the policy effectively. Adopting a qualitative methodology, the study focuses on the administration of Social Forestry within Forest Areas with Special Management (KHDPK) located in Sogo Village, Kedungtuban Subdistrict, Blora Regency, Central Java. The findings reveal that the affirmative policy framework encompasses a range of components, including governance authorization, forest management activities, facilitation, asset utilization, capacity building, monitoring, and funding mechanisms. These elements have been enacted at the provincial level in Central Java. However, at the regency level—specifically in Blora—implementation remains at the facilitation stage, led by Forestry Branch Office 1 (Cabang Dinas Kehutanan or CDK 1). Current facilitation efforts emphasize the cultivation of teak, eucalyptus, mahogany, sengon, johar, maize, and banana. Despite constraints related to limited financial resources and weak institutional infrastructure, the facilitative efforts—driven largely by the commitment of CDK personnel—have succeeded in fostering a sense of community self-reliance. This grassroots initiative is manifested through community-driven contributions such as the provision of seedlings, fertilizers, land management funding, and maintenance efforts. In conclusion, Social Forestry as an affirmative policy holds significant promise for improving rural livelihoods and ensuring forest conservation. It provides a framework for achieving distributive justice and expanding local economic opportunities, offering renewed hope for marginalized communities engaged in forest management.

Keywords: Affirmative Policy, Capacity of Forest Farmer Groups, Social Forestry.

1. INTRODUCTION

Community involvement in forest management is very important, considering that the intensity of community interaction around forests with forests is very high in all regions of Indonesia (Ekawati et al., 2015; Hasan & Yumantoko, 2012; Yakin et al., 2019) besides that farmers around forests are generally poor and poorly educated (Suyanto et al., 2007). The main reasons why people cultivate forest land around their residences are limited arable land and low income (Djamhuri, 2008). In order to empower communities and alleviate poverty around forests, the government organizes various social forestry programs. Social forestry is a forest management system with two main elements, namely local participation and sustainable productivity improvement. Social forestry was first initiated at the International Forestry Congress in 1978, so social forestry activities ran around the world for four decades. The

perspective of social forestry in Indonesia includes recognition of government program initiatives and community initiatives at the local level, such as community forests in Java.

One form of social forestry initiated by the government is the Community Forest (HKm) program. HKM is a program in which the community is given the right to manage state forest land. Farmers manage the country's forests and benefit from the program. HKM is carried out in production forests and in protected forests. HKM is held as a form of legalization of the practice of using state forests by the community. Communities that initially managed forest land illegally (encroachment) were ordered in a forest management organization in the form of forest farmer groups and cooperatives. Communities can manage forest land that has been managed for many years and some that have not managed but participate in the HKM program, get allotments of forest land through a deliberation process with group members (Basir et al., 2020). Anil land is land cultivated by farmers in state forests.

HKM farmers are entitled to benefit from timber products which are expected to increase income. When farmers are not able to utilize wood products, farmers plant various intercrops, both MPTS (Multipurpose Tree Species) plants and food crops between timber trees and carry out non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collection activities to meet daily needs. The application of the integration of trees and agricultural plants in the implementation of HKM is carried out using agroforestry or intercropping techniques. Problems arise when there is a decrease in the productivity of food crops due to the agroforestry system that is applied can only provide maximum yields in the first 2-3 years (Mustofa, 2013) so that farmers' income decreases.

Several studies on HKM report results that food agriculture carried out on HKM land can only be used for the needs of the subsystem (Maryudi & Krott, 2012). Farmers are less able to develop their economic potential (Nandini, 2013) so that there is no added value from the forestry products produced. Meanwhile, on the other hand, HKM programs in other places with different commodities are the main source of income for people such as the Punan community in Malinau Regency (G. et al., 2006). HKM Sesaot farmers in Lombok grow coffee and fruits between wood plants (Gamin et al., 2014). The dominant types of intercropping in HKM in Tanjung Alai Riau village are rubber, sungkai, durian, rambutan, coffee and areca nut (Rochmayanto & Sasmita, 2005). HKM in Lampung is more dominant with coffee, chocolate and fruit plants (Sanudin et al., 2016). HKM in Gunungkidul cultivates palawija plants, animal feed grass, and fruits as intercrops among teak wood plants (Mulyadin et al., 2016).

Poverty is a complex, multidimensional and dynamic problem that is experienced globally to this day. So far, the classification of poverty or welfare is solely measured by income and expenditure in material measures such as consumption income or asset ownership. As a result, the problem of poverty has become a problem that seems to be handled progressively in development statistics, but in fact the reality of poverty is more complex at the level of people's daily lives. Thus, poverty measurement needs to consider factors other than economics alone.

In an effort to understand the poverty of forest farmers, the most appropriate approach is participatory. Through this approach, the involvement side of poor forest farmers becomes an important factor in understanding their poverty. The participatory approach has been introduced by the World Bank since 1992. One of his projects is Consultation with the Poor (Mukherjee, 1999) or Voice of the Poor (Narayan et al., 2000) which examines the poverty perspectives of 60,000 poor people in 60 countries. In (Chambers, 2007) and (Narayan et al., 2000) there were four topics investigated in the study, namely (a) The views and concepts of the poor regarding the good life or poverty (illbeing), (b) The priorities of the poor, (c) The experiences and behavior of the poor towards institutions, (d) Gender and household relations in relation to the experience of poverty.

The current developing development paradigm is economic growth measured by human development. One of the benchmarks used in looking at the quality of human life is the Human Development Index (HDI) which is measured through the quality of education, health and purchasing power. Low HDI results in low work productivity of the population. Low productivity results in low income which is a high poverty rate.

Based on the phenomena as described above, it appears that the problem of poverty is still a problem in the social forestry community in Sogo village, Kedungtuban District, Blora Regency. as one of the implementation of the forest area program with special management of the implementation of the forest area program with special management (KHDPK) which is named Sendang Agung Rejo 2. Meanwhile, on the other hand, community involvement in dealing

with forestry problems in the region is quite high even though it has not shown a solution to overcome the poverty problem faced. The researcher is interested in and pays attention to these issues, related to the involvement of the community in handling their economic problems. This research is more emphasized on the approach of Affirmative policy implementation for social forestry communities in Sogo village, Kedungtuban district, Blora regency.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Public Policy Theory

According to policy expert Anderson (1979) in Islam (1998), formulating that policy is: A purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with problem or matter of concern. According to Anderson (1979) in policy there is a series of actions that have a specific purpose. These activities are followed and carried out by one or a group of actors who aim to solve certain problems. Almost the same opinion was put forward by Islamy who quoted Frederick's opinion in Abdul Wahab (1997). Islamy defines policy as a series of actions proposed by a person, group or government in a given environment by pointing out the difficulties and possibilities of the proposed policy in order to achieve a certain goal (Islamy in Abdul Wahab 1997). The Islamic opinion shows that in addition to efforts to achieve policy goals, it is important to note that there are difficulties and efforts to overcome these difficulties so that the goals set can be achieved.

2.2. Public Policy Implementation Theory

Mazmanian & Sabatier (1983) stated that implementation is the implementation of basic policy decisions, usually in the form of laws, but can also be in the form of orders or important executive decisions or judicial decisions. Based on this statement, public policy is the basic reference for the government in determining a policy or determining a decision.

Implementation according to Mazmanian & Sabatier (1983) is the implementation of basic policies in the form of laws as well as orders or decisions that are important or such as decisions of judicial bodies. This implementation process takes place after going through a number of certain stages such as the ratification of laws, then policy outputs in the form of implementing decisions and so on until the improvement of the relevant policy.

Grindle (1980) stated that implementation is a general process of administrative actions that can be studied at a certain program level. Meanwhile, Van Meter & Van Horn (1975) stated that policy implementation is an action taken by the government and the private sector both individually and in groups intended to achieve goals. Grindle (1980) added that the implementation process will only begin when the goals and objectives have been set, the program of activities has been arranged and funds have been prepared and have been channeled to achieve the goals.

2.3. Poverty Theory

Poverty is a social condition where a person is unable to meet their basic needs because of the lack of income obtained, in other words, their income is not able to meet basic needs such as clothing, food and board. Based on research from (Purwono et al., 2021) it is stated that the condition of poverty in Indonesia is influenced by the difference in income ratios that are quite different in each province. The minimum wage in some regions of Indonesia is still relatively low, so some workers feel unable to meet basic needs by relying on their minimum wage. Economic growth in Indonesia averages 5-6% per year, which has not been able to reduce the number of poor people in Indonesia (Hasibuan et al., 2020).

2.4. Theory of Participation

Problems related to agriculture in Indonesia are a very complex condition because of several factors that do not support agricultural conditions around forests, for example: lack of counseling for farmers around forests, low education, natural conditions, and socio-cultural conditions that are not supportive in the progress of forest agriculture. Based on a statement from (Mayrowani & Ashari, 2016) stating that population growth which tends to be faster is not supported by the availability of food to meet national food needs so that forest farmers lack to understand food self-sufficiency cultivation, especially for farmers around forests. Therefore, the government provides support by lending land to farmers to be developed as a means of food cultivation and able to meet food needs and increase income for

forest farmers. According to the opinion (Dewi, 2018) states that the poor condition of farmers around the forest is caused by the lack of land availability that facilitates farmers in farming activities. The government seeks to provide support through the Ministry of Forestry by providing land assistance around the Perhutani environment for farmers to manage it partially as a staple crop nursery, of course, through a series of policies without damaging the main crops belonging to the Ministry of Forestry, through these policies it is hoped that it will be able to be a better future direction for farmers, especially in poverty alleviation and for the government in maintaining forest sustainability in the Indonesia.

2.5. Forests and Social Forestry

Forests are one of the natural resources that have an important role in human life both from economic, ecological and social aspects. According to (Talumepa, 2020) Indonesia has 120.35 million hectares of forest resources that are rich in a variety of species and various types of ecosystems (mega biodiversity). From a social aspect, forests in Indonesia are also homes and places to socialize between communities. Based on (Law (Law) No. 5 of 1967, 1967), Perum Perhutani is one of the state-owned companies that has been authorized by the state to manage production forests since 1972. Perum Perhutani's land ownership is 2,446,907.27 ha spread across the islands of Java and Madura. As a correction, Perum Perhutani's management in the past tended to be timber-oriented, which did not take into account socio-economic and cultural variables. This then gives rise to disparities or imbalances in the use of forest resources and increasing management conflicts with communities around the forest. Until a new paradigm of forest resource management based on community empowerment was born through awareness of sharing results, sharing roles and sharing responsibilities.

The manifestation of the results of the new paradigm above is the launch of the People's Joint Forest Management Program (PHBM) by Perum Perhutani in 2001. In this PHBM program, Perum Perhutani includes the Human Development Index (HDI) as part of its activity targets. This goal is carried out by including Forest Village Communities or Forest Farmers in forest management. It is hoped that this PHBM will have a positive effect on the community around the forest, especially forest farmers in absorbing labor for planting and maintaining forest trees as well as synergy between Perum Perhutani and the community. To further ensure the success of forest management, it is necessary to form a mindset and attitude of forest farmers. According to Walgito (1981), perception is the first impression to achieve success.

2.6. Theory of Meaning and Symbolic Interactionism

Meaning is an understanding in examining the meaning and understanding of the conditions of the social environment which aims to take the essence of a social understanding. Based on research from (Besika et al., 2022) it is stated that meaning is associated with the satisfaction of life values in the scope of social life where when a person wants to show a value in themselves, it is always accompanied by a related meaning that focuses on understanding the influence of values on daily experience and overall history.

Interpretation of meaning is interpreted as the main desire of man. However, the understanding of wanting meaning does not explain its function. Based on the feeling-as-information hypothesis, it shows the elaboration of feelings of meaning providing information about the existence of patterns and reliable coherence in the environment, the absence of information that is capable of influencing. Research that shows that coherence stimulus manipulation affects subjective reports of meaning in life but is incapable of influencing. Manipulation that fosters Associative mindset enhances meaning Meaning-as-information perspective that instills meaning in a basic network of functions including associative learning, perception, cognition, and information processing. This approach shows assumptions about meaning, including its motivational appeal, the role of expectation and novelty in experience, and the idea that meaning is inherently constructed. Implications for constructed and existential meaning are discussed (Heintzelman & King, 2014).

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses qualitative descriptive methods conducted by observing forest farmers who receive land assistance from the government in Blora Regency, Central Java Province to find out how policies and implementation are in the

field (Sugiyono, 2019). In this study, forest farmers, village officials, and related officials in Blora district played the role of participants and were willing to be interviewed by researchers. Then the data from the interview results were collected and compiled based on several theories related to forest farmer poverty which are also needed as considerations in order to get relevant results and find novelties in research that had not previously been explained in the adapted theory.

The focus of the research on the Sendang Agung Rejo II Forest Farmers Group in Sogo Village, Kedungtuban District, Blora Regency, Central Java Province is:

1) The implementation of social forest management consists of:

- a) Institutional aspects.
- b) Budgeting aspects.
- c) Construction aspects.

2) Factors that inhibit social forestry programs :

- (a) Quality of KTH SAR Human Resources 2.
- (b) Supporting Infrastructure.

This study will use narration in analyzing research data (Sugiyono, 2020). This research technique can be included in the Holistic Perspective strategy, based on the assumption that phenomena change over time as a result of the elements that affect them are interdependent. Understanding phenomena is impossible by reducing the parts or elements that make up their changes.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Analysis of Social Forestry Program Management

1) Institutional Aspects

Results analysis from the Social Forestry Program, several things were found related to institutional aspects, namely: Structural working relationships between governments in implementing social forestry management programs at the KHDPK work up to the provincial level. This will hinder the smooth implementation of the program because the district government is not involved in the program/activity when the Ministry of LHKRI is directly with the Social Forestry Group. Other findings are that the Forestry Service at the Regency level, especially Blora Regency, does not support consultation and collaboration activities in providing support for seed or fertilizer assistance cannot be implemented and the finances of CDK Region I are very limited to the institutional structure that does not support.

Minor propositions in this research analysis include: 1) The organizational unit is an institution, 2) the district Forestry Service is a regional apparatus, 3) the authority of CDK 1 is forestry.

The major propositions based on the analysis of institutional aspects in this study are 1) all institutions are working relationships, 2) all regional apparatus are coordination, 3) all strengths are diversity.

The conclusions obtained from the analysis of this institutional aspect are: 1) the organizational unit is a working relationship, 2) the district forestry service needs to coordinate, 3) authority is the ability to carry out activities within the institution.

2) Budgeting Aspects

The findings of the analysis of the budgeting aspect of the social forestry program in this research are:

- a. There is no financial assistance to KPS on KHDPK,
- b. The Social Forestry Working Group Division at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Central Java provincial levels has not submitted a budget in the APBN/APBD,

c. Sectoral ego is very high in budgeting for Social Forestry in Forest Areas with Special Management.

The minor propositions are:

- a. financial aid is the provision of assistance,
- b. The Social Forestry Working Group Division is a supporting factor for the social forestry program,
- c. Sector ego is prioritizing one's own interests.

The major propositions of budgeting aspects are:

- a. All assistance provided is work facilities,
- b. all supporting factors for the social forestry program are work units,
- c. all self-interest is low empathy.

Meanwhile, the conclusion from the budgeting aspect analysis is:

- a. financial assistance is a work facility for social forestry programs,
- b. The Social Forestry Working Group Division is a supporting work unit,
- c. Sector ego is empathy

Very low for communities in social forestry programs in forest areas with special management.

3) Coaching Aspects

The findings of the analysis of the development aspects in the social forestry program for forest areas with special management are: 1) Development of the social forestry program for forest areas with special management is very minimal, 2) working relationships in the development of the social forestry program for forest areas with special management cannot run as expected, 3) cross-sector coordination is still very weak.

Minor propositions on the aspects of social forestry development in forest areas with special management, namely: 1) minimal development is facilitation, 2) work relationship patterns are work procedures, 3) cross-sector coordination is cross-sectoral communication.

The major propositions of the development aspects of the social forestry program for forest areas with special management are: 1) All facilitation is activity assistance, 2) all work governance is a work system, and 3) all cross-sector communication is responsibility.

Meanwhile, the conclusion from the analysis of the development aspects of the social forestry program in forest areas with special management is: 1) minimal development is assistance that is still very low, 2) in terms of work relations, the work system is less than ideal, and 3) cross-sector coordination is responsibility.

4.2 Social Forestry Program Resource Capacity Analysis

1) Human Resources Quality of KTH Sendang Agung Rejo 2 in the Social Forestry Program in Forest Areas with Special Management

The findings of the analysis of human resource capacity in the Social Forestry Program for Forest Areas with Special Management are:

- a) There is a gap in educational capacity between the center, regions and villages.
- b) technical knowledge of the Social Forestry Program for Forest Areas with Special Management is very low, and
- c) the capacity of the productive age population (15 – 25 years) still chooses to leave the village.

The minor proposition is:

- a) Capacity gaps are barriers to progress.
- b) low technical knowledge is lack of technical understanding.

c) The productive age population leaving the village are young people/teenagers.

The major proposition is:

- a) all capacity gaps are capability imbalances.
- b) all technical knowledge is low technical awareness.
- c) All productive age population are young generation.

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that:

- a) The educational capacity gap is the existence of educational differences.
- b) low technical knowledge is a level of lack of technical understanding of work.
- c) The young population is the young generation who prefer to work outside the village.

2) Supporting Facilities and Infrastructure for Social Forestry Programs in Forest Areas with Special Management

The analysis findings related to supporting facilities and infrastructure for the Social Forestry Program in Forest Areas with Special Management include:

- a) Inadequate work tools,
- b) The assistance for seeds and fertilizers never existed,
- c) The available Perum Perhutani assets cannot yet be utilized by KPS KHDPK
- d) The land is less productive and has cliffs.

The minor proposition is:

- a) inadequate work tools are low work equipment,
- b) Seed and fertilizer assistance is a KPS requirement,
- c) Perum Perhutani assets are assets of economic value, and
- d) Less productive and sloping land is land that has been left abandoned.

While the major proposition is:

- a) all inadequate work tools are the cause of work accidents,
- b) all seed and fertilizer assistance is supporting facilities and infrastructure for KPS,
- c) all Perum Perhutani assets are owned equipment,
- d) all unproductive land is abandoned land.

The conclusion is: 1) inadequate work tools are the cause of work safety being threatened with failure, 2) seed and fertilizer assistance are the main needs for KPS KHDPK, 3) Perum Perhutani assets are assets that have economic value that are not utilized, and 4) less productive and cliffy land is land that cannot be managed.

4.3 Capacity of Forest Farmer Groups in Program Implementation

Social forestry is an important strategy in forest restoration and conservation efforts, especially in developing countries with high levels of deforestation. One of the main challenges in social forestry is increasing the capacity of local communities to manage forests sustainably. Local communities often have limited knowledge and skills in managing forests, so capacity building efforts are needed through intensive training, mentoring, and coaching.

In addition, strengthening community institutions is also a crucial aspect in increasing the capacity of social forestry. The formation and strengthening of forest farmer groups, cooperatives, or other institutions can encourage collective community participation in forest management. On the other hand, coordination and synergy between stakeholders, such as government, private sector, and community, are also important to support social forestry

programs. Limited access to land, conflicts of interest, and low community capacity are the main challenges that must be faced in social forestry.

Therefore, efforts to increase community capacity, strengthen institutions, and synergy between stakeholders are key factors in the success of social forestry programs in Indonesia. Institutional strengthening is an important factor in the implementation of social forestry programs. In addition, coordination and synergy between stakeholders also need to be improved to support social forestry. Some of the capacities needed in every program implementation include community capacity in land management. Limited technical capacity of the community is a challenge in the implementation of social forestry.

Based on existing sources, institutional strengthening is needed to encourage community participation in forest management, but there are still challenges related to community capacity that need to be improved. Limited access for the community is at least caused by 2 main things, namely (1) regulations governing community access to forest resources (2) socialization of regulations governing community access, is still carried out in a limited manner to bureaucratic officers and has not directly touched the community around the forest. Meanwhile, regulations on the utilization and use of forests have been carried out in the form of Forest Management Rights (HPH), Forest Product Collection Rights (HPHH), Industrial Plantation Forests (HTI), and others.

The reality in the field, the level of narrow agricultural land ownership (0.3 hectares) to support 4-5 family members is considered insufficient, so that land management is needed for wider farming businesses. It is estimated that the number of poor people living around the forest is $\pm 30\%$ or reaches $\pm 235,974$ people, and have a life that is very dependent on forest products directly. Poverty in communities around the forest tends to have a higher level of severity, due to limited access to various types of access such as communication facilities and infrastructure, health, education, infrastructure, capital and others so that information is very limited and market access is also very limited. As a result, it is difficult for communities around the forest to escape the problem of poverty. Forests are an important resource for the poor and are absolutely necessary as a source of food, building materials and other materials for households around the forest area.

The real results that have been received by the community through the HKm program are the increased production of NTFPs, where each location has its own variety of product types, making each location have its own superior products. The implementation of NTFP and NTFP management certainly requires seriousness and careful planning. Because NTFP products are not only the domain of one sector, but in their development require comprehensive handling, from upstream to downstream, and must be supported by the goodwill of the central government, provinces and districts. Almost in all NTFP locations in Lombok, various NTFP commodities are found, including: types of fruits, types of MPTS or multipurpose plants (palm, candlenut), and other plants (coffee, empon-empon). All types of plants have high selling value, and farmers can harvest continuously throughout the season, based on weekly, monthly, seasonal and annual categories.

In general, the area of HKm managed land varies quite a bit with a range of 0.25-2.0 hectares. The area of cultivated land certainly has an impact on farmers' income. However, the reality is that the wider the cultivated land does not guarantee that farmers' income will always be greater. The main factor that affects farmers' income levels is the high intensity of farmers in managing their cultivated land. Several cases were found that farmers who have cultivated land above 1 hectare, not all of them can be worked intensively, due to limited labor.

The amount of income is largely determined by the type of commodity planted. Several types of commodities that provide significant income value for NTFPs are: Durian, mangosteen, jackfruit, chocolate and coffee. Non-NTFPs that are the mainstay of farmers are bananas and papaya. Here it can be seen that HKm has actually proven its contribution to increasing people's income and changing social structures, especially around forest areas. If asked to residents around the forest area, whether there were changes in the community's economy before and after the existence of NTFPs, they will all answer in unison that there were, and can tell quite a long story about the changes. One real change is that most of the population's workforce is now absorbed to work on land in the forest. The impact of population growth and high economic demands and other household needs triggered an increase in forest utilization by the surrounding community in the 1970s-1990s. The activities of residents in and around the forest area carried out

without permission resulted in increasing pressure on forest resources. This condition continues even though through TGHK the government has changed the status of the area from Production Forest to Protected Forest.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Conclusion

1) This study aims to examine Social Forestry (SF) as a means of improving community welfare and environmental conservation. PERMEN LHK No. 4 of 2023 is used as a reference to accelerate the management of SF, open economic access, and create justice for local communities. This study focuses on the implementation of the policy and the capacity of the Forest Farmer Group (KTH) in managing it, with a study in Sogo Village, Kedungtuban District, Blora Regency, Central Java.

The results of the study show that at the Central Java Province level, the implementation of this policy has included management approval, assistance, and supervision. However, in Blora Regency, the Forestry Service Branch (CDK) 1 is still at the facilitation stage, with the development of plants such as teak, eucalyptus, and bananas. Limited funds and weak institutions are obstacles, but an intensive coaching approach encourages communities to be self-reliant in land management.

2) The implementation of the social forestry program as an affirmative policy has been carried out in the Central Java region located in Sogo Village, Kedungtuban District under the CDK 1 facility as follows:

- a. Implementation of Social Forestry Management: Institutional aspects, Budgeting aspects, Guidance aspects
- b. The condition of social forestry resources consists of: Aspects of the quality of KTH SAR-II human resources and aspects of supporting social forestry infrastructure.

3) The capacity of local communities to manage forests sustainably. Local communities often have limited knowledge and skills in managing forests, so efforts are needed to increase capacity through intensive training, mentoring and coaching.

4) Monitoring and evaluation of this program is important to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. One important aspect in monitoring and evaluating the social forestry program is monitoring the ecological, economic, and social impacts. In terms of ecology, aspects that need to be monitored include land cover conditions, biodiversity, and natural resource sustainability. Meanwhile, in terms of economy, measurable indicators are increased community income, growth of forest-based economic businesses, and creation of decent jobs.

5) The Social Forestry Program in Sogo Village, Kedungtuban District, Blora Regency, managed by the SAR-II Forest Farmer Group with support from CDK-I Central Java Province and BPDAS, has reached its final stage. A total of 85 hectares of land have been rehabilitated using eucalyptus plants and various types of fruit, including mango, orange, and water apple. It is expected that the harvest can be enjoyed within five years.

5.2. Suggestions

1) The implementation of Social Forestry primarily requires collaboration between ministries, institutions, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and other related parties.

2) The authority of the government and regional governments regulated in various regulations to facilitate the community, needs to be improved because the political system and centralization that is running with authority that is not yet aligned between the government and regional governments.

3) Social forestry programs require coordination and synergy between governments to ensure that each group receives adequate assistance. They must work with high professional motivation and policy discretion when necessary.

4) Optimization of KHDPK where this organization is authorized to manage forests starting from planning, utilization, to counseling and research. That is why the position of KHDPK is very vital as a state institution that is closest to the community in implementing social forestry policies.

5.3 Theoretical Implications

Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Number 4 of 2023 as an affirmative policy aims to accelerate the improvement of the welfare of communities around forests through the Social Forestry program. This policy provides an opportunity for communities to manage forests independently without direct involvement from Perum Perhutani, making it more in line with local needs. Grindle's theory (1980) emphasizes that the success of policy implementation depends on the strategy, resources, and strength of political actors. In this context, stakeholders who have political influence can develop strategies so that programs run according to their interests. However, communities around forests are still faced with problems such as limited resources during the planting and harvesting seasons, difficulties in marketing forest products, and lack of access to subsidized fertilizers. This shows that even though the policy already exists, its implementation still faces real challenges.

5.4 Practical Implications

This study found a gap in resource capacity between the government and forest farmer groups in managing the Social Forestry program in KHDPK. The government has a direct role in managing the program, while the managerial institutions below it only function as coordinators, which causes difficulties in field operations. Meanwhile, the previous journal entitled "Recognition of Customary Forests is in Place: Using President Joko Widodo's Commitment in Recognizing the Existence of Customary Law Communities in Indonesia" (Karim & Rifasya, 2020) emphasized the role of the community and government coalitions. Both parties formed alliances and adjusted their strategies to deal with external changes such as the 2014 and 2019 elections. In the context of changes in customary forest recognition policies, community coalitions continue to strive to change the composition of sub-systems to strengthen the recognition of customary forests. On the other hand, the government adjusts its policies to maintain its political beliefs and power during the election period.

5.5 Research Novelty

Affirmative policies that provide space for community participation and have an impact on improving community welfare have received positive support from the target community. Although not supported by adequate coordination of institutional conditions and budgeting, they are able to present self-reliance and independent initiatives from the target community. This affirmative policy, although it is related to conservation (in this case forest areas), does not cause forest and environmental damage, which is a concept that is of concern to the government. It is even able to be a means to optimize the function of productive sustainable forests for the local community.

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