

# **SOCIALIZATION AND SELECTION OF COMMUNITIES TO PARTAKE IN THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

## *Technical Report No. 1*

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### **ABSTRACT**

This Technical report is made available to satisfy the specific objective 1, output 1.1. activity 1.1.1. on Socialization and selection of communities to partake in the proposed activities.

The fact shows that escalation of uncontrolled logging, forest fire and conversion is being hampered the sustainable forest management in West Kalimantan and Indonesia in general. On the other hand, local community living near forest has not been directly involved and empowered in rehabilitation program where resources in this community level are always scarce. A proposed forest rehabilitation project has been socialized to local communities in all sites selected consisting of 6 (six) villages located nearby the degraded forests within Mempawah and Kapuas watershed ecosystem in West Kalimantan Province.

Explanation regarding the purposes and benefits of the upcoming project were presented. One of the principles of approach for ensuring local community participation in the project cycle was to consider and recognize the local communities particularly forest-dwelling communities in having collective claims to security to be able to decide their own priorities and security of tenure of the lands where they traditionally inhabit and the usufruct of the natural resources therein.

Discussions raised the issues on rights and duties/obligation to be taken primarily on participation and collaboration with local communities. In the discussion it was also explored the underlying causes and impacts of deforestation which have not specifically been determined yet. Several issues concluded among local communities which have been addressed involved : 1) Right of land ownership, 2). Right of tree harvest and other benefit, 3). Selection of tree species for rehabilitation, 4). Development of short-term income generating activities, 5) Size and proximity of forest rehabilitation plots, and 6). Role of community work force for combating forest fire.

Recommendations can be drawn as follow: (1) Since land categories, whether public or private, need to be kept under permanent forest cover they will be rehabilitated for securing the national forest development program; (2) Dealing with the right of tree harvest and other benefit from the forest developed it should be handed over to a special management board consisting of executing agency or the government, and the community leaders, how all matters pertaining to the rehabilitation plots should be handled; (3) Besides endemic species including meranti, tengkawang, kapur, gaharu, ulin/belian and durian that the villagers have to plant in the rehabilitation project, rubber tree will also be considered since it becomes the preferred multi purpose tree species, including kemiri; (4) Those forest rehabilitation activities must be combined with development of more immediate income generating activities such as small scale rubber plantation, animal husbandry, poultry, fish pond, etc; (5) To determine the size and proximity of degraded forest in each selected site there will be measurement and micro mapping of the rehabilitation plots.. (6) To protect the rehabilitated forest from fire disaster, the plots must be surrounded by a clear space separating them from the surrounding area, and this clear strip should be checked and maintained periodically.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The degradation of forest resource has led to the decrease not only the environmental aspect but also social and economic aspects of local communities. For them, which depend on the forest for subsistence needs and income, the degradation of the forest reduces its benefits. Meanwhile, local people living in this intended project sites are generally still in subsistent condition. Therefore, the stated development objective of the project was to arrest the decline and degradation of forest through the development of forest rehabilitation strategy.

Socialization of the proposed activities was initiated in the month of April 2006. In thus sessions there would expectedly be some communication or discussion with the participants concerning the expected implementation of the proposed project including the inputs of underlying causes and background information on sosio-economic and environmental impacts. Information collected indicates that the local community primarily Dayak tribe is apparently still expecting the sustainable forest as they used to live with.

The community members that will involve in this proposed project must be based on their interests and willingness to participate in the project primarily their previous involvement or experience in management of the rehabilitated forest area.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this activity was to socialize and give information to the local communities living near by the degraded forest land to be rehabilitated. Asking them to be apart and collaborate in the rehabilitation program. Explanation was given on the benefits of the future forest stand to be developed both in terms of social-economically and ecologically.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Socialitation of the upcoming rehabilitation project was directed to local village members to be gathered by the head of the village. Socialitation was conducted towards local people in all target location involving informal leaders and all key persons in each village visited. Based on the formulated proposal and detailed workplan, socialitation on the locations will originally be conducted at 2 (two) sites within 2 (two) regencies namely

Landak and Sanggau regencies. Nonetheless, following discussion with the national and international experts, for representation of the existing main watershed in West Kalimantan, the location of the site study was decided to be added, remains using the existing sources, into 6 (six) sites within 5 (five) regencies for identification, namely from the upstream areas includes regencies of : Sintang, Sekadau, Sanggau, Landak and Pontianak.

In each location, from the upstream area consisting of villages: Mentajoi (Regency of Sintang), Merbang (Reg. of Sekadau), Lintang Pelaman (Reg. of Sanggau), Empirang Ujung (Reg. of Sanggau), Manggang (Reg. of Landak), and Bunbun (Reg. of Pontianak), explanation of the project purposes with introducing team members was initiated and followed by discussion or two-way communication. One of the principles of approach was that the team also considered and recognized the local communities particularly forest-dwelling communities having individual and collective claims to security including: a) the ability to decide their own priorities and to control their own economic, cultural and social development and b) security of tenure of the lands they traditionally inhabit and usufruct of the natural resources therein.

The perception and attitudes of the villagers concerning the project will be determined in number of stages, such as - through large group discussion and small group interview to assess socio-economic aspects, as follows :

- By interviews, observation and feedback from focus group discussion and participatory data gathering through PRA methods involving local people including detailed assessment of affect their livelihoods; the past situation compared with the present, activities that degrade environment, role of residents and communities on degradation, sustainability and their own future,
- Formulation of objectives from the discussion will essentially determine what should be done and what can be done; the role of external agents; the role of the communities themselves, etc.
- In organizing the workshop, the project team will play the role of facilitator. Thus the team will arrange workshop discussions and utilize several participatory exercises to provide opportunities for communities and community groups including women to express their perception on degradation of forest areas and their rehabilitation and management.

## **FINDING AND ANALYSIS**

### **A. Dusun Mentajoi, Desa Buntut Ponte (Sintang Regency)**

1. Mentajoi is a sub-village (Dusun) To reach the place one has to travel a long distance to the upstream area of Melawi river. By road from Pontianak to Nanga Pinoh it takes about 10 hours. If we start from Nanga Pinoh, the seat of Melawi District by speedboat, we will arrive at logpond Tontang after 6 hours journey. Dusun Mentajoi is a settlement located approximately 15 km from the jety of logpond Tontang belonging to PT. Sari Bumi Kusuma (SBK) group, and situated outside near the border of the company Forest Concession.
2. This village has experienced an intensive forest settlers development program socalled Pembinaan Masyarakat Desa Hutan (PMDH), conducted by the forest company in support of various aspect of community life of the village. The program began in 1999 and still in progress in 2006, this year. At present Forest Concession of this Tontang camp is in an inactive state, waiting for extension of permit for logging operation in the area which is still pending.
3. When they do not work with the logging company the community practice shifting cultivation, hunting for wild animal, and tap rubber trees.
4. During the meeting the communities asked the team to explain about who has the right of land after rehabilitation is completed. The team responded since the land being rehabilitated is functioned as production forest the land remains as state forest.
5. The next important issue that need clarification is on who has the right to harvest the forest either as wood product or non-wood product. To this issue the team proposed that this matter should be handed over to a special management board that will be established jointly by the team, the government, and the community leaders. This local board should decide how all matters pertaining to the rehabilitation plots should be handled.
6. When we ask them what they thought the most preferred species for forest rehabilitation, they mention the following: rubber; gaharu; tengkawang; durian; meranti; kapur; bangkirai, jelutung; damar; ulin; and kemiri.

## **B. Merbang (Sekadau Regency)**

1. Merbang Village is situated in Ketungau Hilir Sub-District of Sekadau Regency (District), West Kalimantan Province. This village is accessible by four-wheel vehicle in about 2 hours from Sanggau, through relatively good paved road. The village has 256 families consisted of 544 people.
2. The majority of the population practice shifting cultivation combined with rubber tapping. Compared to the other village communities we have visited during this trip, this is one of the communities that claimed sufficient production of rice for their own consumption. They plant rice regularly once a year, and tap rubber when work in the rice field is completed.
3. According to the villagers there has never been a forest rehabilitation project operating in this village. They basically depend to the forest not only for source of timber for building material, but also other secondary forest products such as durian fruit, wild vegetable, rattan, wildlife, and water source. The villagers claimed that all forest areas around the village were belong to them as community forests.
4. The main issue of participant in the discussion stated that forest rehabilitation is welcome if people in the area are allowed to benefit from it.
5. When the participants were asked to name several wood species they like to plant they mentioned the following: gaharu; rubber; tengkawang; meranti, belian; kemiri, and durian.

## **C. Lintang Pelaman (Sanggau Regency)**

1. Lintang Pelaman Village is situated in Sanggau Sub-District of Sanggau Regency of West Kalimantan Province. This village can be reached from Sanggau (seat of Sanggau District) using two methods of transportation: (1) speed boat, and (2) motorcycle. From Sanggau to the old PT. Erna jetty the trip can be made by speed boat. From that point the trip can be made on the back seat of motorcycle.
2. PT Erna abandoned logging activities in 1996, about 10 years ago, but some of its housing and office buildings are still standing, and the open space that was used to store log is still occasionally used for temporary store of wood coming from upstream area including Melawi river. Following forest exploitation the

village which has 114 houses and a population of 832 people seems to experience environmental problems.

3. The villagers claimed that all forest areas around the village were belong to them as community forests and they have right to get benefits from forests.
4. When the villagers were asked about their perception about forest they mentioned the following: a). Source of building material, b). Place to practice dry farming. c). Source of water, and d). Source of life and living. The villagers also mention the endemic species used for forest rehabilitation project were: rubber trees; tengkawang; meranti; gaharu; and kemiri.

#### **D. Empirang Ujung (Sanggau Regency)**

1. Empirang Village is situated in Balai Batang Tarang Sub-District of Sanggau Regency or District, West Kalimantan Province. This village is accessible by four-wheel vehicle in about 30 minutes from the town of Sosok, through relatively good paved road. The village has 114 families consisted of 364 people.
2. The majority of the population practice shifting cultivation combined with rubber tapping. Compared to the other communities we have visited during this trip, this is the second community that claimed sufficient production of rice for their own consumption. They plant rice regularly once a year, and also tap rubber when work in the rice field is completed.
3. The villagers expected the forest rehabilitation project be in reality as soon as possible, while they also asking if there will be permitted to plant rubber tree.
4. The most preferred tree species for forest rehabilitation is rubber trees, and the most rejected species is palm trees. Other local forest trees they wanted to plant namely : meranti, kapur, gaharu, tengkawang, durian and belian

#### **E. Manggang (Landak Regency)**

1. Manggang village is situated in Mandor Sub-District of Landak Regency (District), in West Kalimantan Province. Our survey team visited this village which in the old day the village was called Malimo.
2. The village head invited important people in the village to local school building where the team was given ample time to explain the purpose of our visit and

recorded information about present condition, extraction, and conservation of the forest.

3. In principle the people welcome the idea of forest rehabilitation but several matters need to be clarified before they embrace the idea for implementation, such as:
  - a. Is it true that the government really want to rehabilitate the forest found near their settlements?
  - b. The people mentioned their experience with other government sponsored economic program in the past that forced the people to relinquish their land to the palm oil companies and receive only a small portion of oil palm plot in return.
  - c. As a result the people became marginalized and become wage labors only with low pay.
  - d. The people here refuse oil palm plantation, but welcome development of small scale rubber plantation or at least the forest rehabilitation would permit planting rubber tree..
4. Some of the participants in the discussion stated that forest rehabilitation is welcome if people in the area are allowed to benefit from it.
5. When the participants were asked to name several wood species they like to plant they mentioned the following: rubber; tengkawang; durian; belian; gaharu, keranji, kelampai and kemiri.

#### **F. Bunbun (Pontianak Regency)**

1. Bunbun is a settlement or section in Baweng Village situated in Toho Sub-District of Pontianak Regency (District), in West Kalimantan Province. Intensive discussion was conducted by community leaders and also Secretary of Toho Sub-District (Mr. Lomban Gaol). Some of the outcomes of the discussion are presented in the following paragraphs.
2. Most of the inhabitant of this village are Dayak (95%), and the rest are Malay, and other ethnic groups. The road accessing the village is always in poor condition although this village can be reached from Sungai Kunyit in the coast

using motorcycle. Although the distance is not very far, electricity still has not reached this village.

3. Current government policy indicates that in the community participation on rehabilitation of degraded forest is allowed the use of 60% wood species and 40% multi purpose tree species (MPTS). The government approve 3 varieties of rubber trees recommended for reforestation project i.e. NR 32, NR 35, and NR 39.
4. When people are asked to name tree species that are suitable for reforestation project they name the following: (1) Rubber; (2) Tengawang; (3) Durian; (4) Belian; (5) Kemiri ; (6) Gaharu; (7) Keranji; and (8) Kelampai.

### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the discussion provided in the previous paragraphs and with experiences working with local communities, the team provides the following conclusion:

1. Right of land ownership: During the survey almost in all selected project sites visited the communities asked concerning the right of land after rehabilitation is completed.
2. Right of tree harvest and other benefit: The next important issue dealt with the right was how and who will harvest the forest either as wood product or non-wood product.
3. Selection of tree species for rehabilitation: In all of the areas surveyed by the team, the communities selected rubber trees, particularly improved varieties, as the most preferred rehabilitation species. Their choice was based on their long-term experience with rubber production. This species has become reliable backup support for local economy. Besides rubber, endemic species selected for forest rehabilitation project as the following : tengawang, meranti, kapur, bangkirai, gaharu, jelutung, damar, keranji, kelampai, ulin/belian, durian and kemiri.
4. Development of short-term income generating activities: The actual employment provided to local communities during the operational period of the rehabilitation process will be short-lived, depending on the length of time and amount of money prepared by the project.



5. Size and proximity of forest rehabilitation plots: To be economically valuable each forest rehabilitation plots should be no less than 100 Ha. If we refer to the aborted 100 Ha plots managed by the community, such size is sufficient to be exploited efficiently in the future.
6. Role of community work force: The tree species planted during the rehabilitation project take at least 20 to 30 year to mature. During such long period many things can happen to them. Our experience in the past showed that the most damaging catastrophe facing the seedling and young trees is bush fire if there is no community role to protect it..

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Since the land being rehabilitated principally is production forest the land remains as state forest. However, for lands claimed by local communities, in particular – forest-dwelling communities, thus foresylands would be considered as community forests. Since land categories, wether public or private, need to be rehabilitated and kept under permanent forest cover they will secure the national forest development program.
2. To the issue dealt with the right of tree harvest and other benefit from the forest developed the team proposed that this matter should be handed over to a special management board that will be established jointly by the executing agency or the government, and the community leaders. This local board should decide how all matters pertaining to the rehabilitation plots should be handled.
3. Besides endemic species that the villagers has to plant in the rehabilitation project, rubber tree will also be considered since it becomes the most preferred species for them for the economical reason. Gaharu that lately has become elite species because of expensive price of its product, must be introduced with caution since there is not enough proof yet to ensure the success of the method in field trial. Introduced species such as Kemiri could also be considered since the kernel of this species is marketable in other area of Indonesia. However, there is problem of unfamiliarity with its cultivation and marketing faced by local communities.
4. For the development of short-term income generating activities, while the

rehabilitation project in progress, therefore those activities must be combined with development of more immediate income generating activities such as small scale rubber plantation, animal husbandry, poultry, fish pond, etc for community's income generating alternatives.

5. Since the size and proximity of degraded forest in each site has not determined yet for rehabilitation plots, therefore there will be measurement and micro mapping in the next activities.
6. To protect the rehabilitated forest from fire disaster, therefore the plots must be surrounded by a clear space separating them from the surrounding area, and this clear strip should be checked and maintained periodically. In return to the creation of immediate income activities mention in point 5, the local communities must sign an agreement to take the responsibility in watching and protecting the rehabilitation plots from all kinds of disturbance.

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