

Conservation of Indonesian Tropical Forests as the Lungs of the World

Kelestarian Hutan Tropis Indonesia Sebagai Paru-paru Dunia

Respati Kurniawan

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945, Indonesia

Corresponding author: respatiuntag@gmail.com

Abstract

As stated in Article 1 letter b of Law Number 41 Year 1999 concerning Forestry Principles, forest is an integrated ecosystem in the form of a stretch of land containing biological natural resources dominated by trees in their natural environment, which cannot be separated from one another. The success of development in the forestry sector is not only determined by capable and skilled officials. However, it must also be supported by community participation. The need for community participation in forest protection is based on the premise that this participation can provide information to the Government and remind the public's willingness to accept decisions and return forests in Indonesia to the lungs of the world.

[Sebagaimana tercantum pada Pasal 1 huruf b Undang-Undang Nomor 41 Tahun 1999 Tentang Pokok-Pokok Kehutanan, bahwa hutan adalah suatu kesatuan ekosistem berupa hamparan lahan berisi sumber daya alam hayati yang didominasi pepohonan dalam persekutuan alam lingkungannya, yang satu dengan lainnya tidak dapat dipisahkan. Keberhasilan pembangunan di bidang kehutanan tidak hanya ditentukan oleh aparatur yang cakap dan terampil. Ini juga harus didukung oleh partisipasi masyarakat. Perlunya partisipasi masyarakat dalam perlindungan hutan dilandasi oleh pemikiran bahwa partisipasi ini dapat memberikan informasi kepada Pemerintah dan mengingatkan kembali kesediaan masyarakat untuk menerima keputusan dan mengembalikan hutan di Indonesia ke paru-paru dunia.]

Keywords: Sustainability, Tropical Forest, Indonesia

I. Background

Humans from birth in the world have been in an environment. The environment is the first and most important source for meeting various human needs. With

regard to the environment it is regulated in Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management. The definition of the living environment according to Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management is a spatial unit with all objects, power, conditions and living things, including humans and their behavior that affect nature itself, the continuity of life and the welfare of humans and other living things. On the other hand, the development of industries cannot be avoided in order to increase production and increase employment. However, industry can also cause environmental pollution. In addition, as a result of population density pressures and poverty problems have pushed people in some parts of the country to use forest areas that should have been protected for agricultural activities or for other activities. Forests as the capital for national development have real benefits for the life and livelihood of the Indonesian people, both ecological, socio-cultural and economic benefits in a balanced and dynamic manner. For this reason, forests must be managed and managed, protected and used in a sustainable manner for the welfare of the Indonesian people, both current and future generations (Yusuf & Makarao, 2011).

Indonesia, which has a land area of about 1.3 percent of the earth's surface, in the 1950s had forests of approximately 162 million hectares. The area of the forest has experienced tremendous shrinkage so that now there are only around 98 million left. Nearly one million hectares per year, the level of forest destruction that occurred in Indonesia in the 1980s, but increased to about 1.7 million hectares of forest damaged every year in 1990. In about 50 years our forests have shrunk by about 40 percent, so that the rate forest destruction in Indonesia is ranked number one. If this is allowed and there is no strong policy towards forest conservation, in the future Indonesia's forests will be gone. Forests do not only have an economic function as a producer of wood, rattan, dammar, and others. In addition, forests have inseparable social and ecological functions. Fair use of forest resources will reduce social unrest. Forests are able to protect cultural values, customs, and other aesthetic values. Ecologically, forests function as water reserves, prevent erosion, and are a place to maintain biodiversity. Seeing how important the function of forests is, the forest must be preserved, otherwise our children and grandchildren will be angry because they cannot enjoy the forest. The forest does not belong to the forest ruler or entrepreneur, but belongs to us, the wider community and our children and grandchildren.

Forests as a gift from god almighty that are bestowed upon humans are natural resources that are priceless. This natural wealth will have no meaning if we are less able to manage and utilize it properly. So that many people cannot enjoy the wealth they have. Forests are one of the natural resources that have high economic, ecological and social value, and tropical natural forests also function as the world's lungs and life-supporting systems so that their sustainability must be preserved and maintained by proper forest development.

As stated in Article 1 letter b of Law Number 41 Year 1999 concerning Forestry Principles, forest is an integrated ecosystem in the form of a stretch of land containing biological natural resources dominated by trees in their natural environment, which cannot be separated from one another. Therefore, it can be said that the forest is a buffer for human life which consists of various components of natural resources, especially those that can be used by humans to optimize various functions of the forest.

II. The Problem

How is the sustainability of Indonesia's tropical forests as the world's lungs?

III. Discussion

Forest based on its function is the classification of forest based on its use (Article 6 to Article 7UU Number 41 of 1999). This forest can be classified into three types, namely:

a. Conservation Forest

Conservation forest is a forest area with certain characteristics that has the main function of preserving plant and animal diversity and their ecosystem. Conservation forest consists of three types, namely:

1. A nature reserve forest area is a forest with certain characteristics that has a primary function as an area for the preservation of plant and animal diversity and its ecosystem, which also functions as an area for a life support system.
2. Nature conservation forest area is forest with certain characteristics which has the main function of protecting the life support system for the preservation of plant and animal species diversity, as well as the sustainable use of biological natural resources and their ecosystem.
3. Hunting park is a forest area designated as a hunting tourism site.

b. Protected Forest

Protected forest is a forest area that has the main function of protecting life support systems to regulate water management, prevent flooding, control erosion, prevent seawater intrusion, and maintain soil fertility.

c. Production Forest

Production forest is a forest area that has the main function of producing forest products (Salim, 2008).

Indonesia's forests which cover 63% of the land area are an invaluable gift and mandate from God Almighty (Hidayati, et al., 2006). The state as the ruler of forest resources as a whole must be able to manage properly so as to provide multipurpose benefits for the welfare of the Indonesian people and the benefit of mankind in the world. Therefore, forest resources must be grateful, managed,

utilized optimally and preserved for the greatest prosperity of the people for the present and future generations. Good forest management is based on the essence of the forest which is a wealth as well as a potential asset for national development covering various fields.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, from an environmental review aspect, Indonesia's vast tropical forests have a function as one of the world's lungs. The preservation of tropical forests is not only in the interests of the Indonesian nation itself, but also in the interests of nations around the world. This means that forest management in Indonesia must guarantee the maintenance of the safety of all flora and fauna in the State forest area. This is intended so that forest resources are able to provide a comprehensive and sustainable environmental carrying capacity for the survival and life of mankind in the world which includes boundaries between generations and across territories. The immense importance of forest resources for the survival of mankind across territories is a joint obligation of all human beings in the world to maintain and maintain the sustainable function of forest resources. Forests essentially have three main functions of sustainability, namely the preservation of ecological, economic and social functions. The preservation of the ecological function of the forest is to maintain sustainability and to support the balance of the ecosystem of life for the world community.

Furthermore, the economic function of forests is to become a source of financial income and state foreign exchange. While socially the forest functions as a provider of employment and a source of fulfillment of people's needs. Forest as a life support system and a source of people's prosperity in reality continues to decline. In a not too long period of time there has been significant deforestation throughout Indonesia. From the latest data, it is stated that forest damage has reached a coverage of 101.73 million hectares (Hidayati, et al., 2006). This means that forest destruction has completely paralyzed the potential as well as one of the foundations for the nation's economy. Therefore, it becomes a collective agreement to maintain the preservation of forest resources in an optimal manner through maintaining their supporting capacity in a sustainable manner, being managed with morals, justice, wisdom, wisdom, openness and responsibility.

Laws and regulations issued by the Government relating to forest conservation efforts include: According to article 47 of Law Number 41 Year 1999 concerning Forestry Principles, it is determined that protection of forests and forest areas is an effort to:

- a. Prevent and limit the destruction of forests, forest areas and forest products caused by human and livestock actions, fire, natural forces, pests and diseases.
- b. Maintain and safeguard the rights of the State, communities and individuals over forests, forest areas, forest products, investments and instruments related to forest management.

IV. Conclusion

The success of development in the forestry sector is not only determined by capable and skilled officials. But it must also be supported by community participation. The need for community participation in forest protection is based on the premise that this participation can provide information to the Government and remind the public's willingness to accept decisions and return forests in Indonesia as the lungs of the world.

References

- Hidayati, R., Tambunan, C. C. H., Nugraha, A. & Aminidin, I. (2006). *Pemberantasan Illegal Logging dan Penyelundupan Kayu: Menuju Kelestarian Hutan dan Peningkatan Kinerja Sektor Kehutanan*. Banten: Wana Aksara.
- Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management.
- Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry Principles.
- Salim. (2008). *Dasar-Dasar Hukum Kehutanan*. Jakarta: Sinar Grafika.
- Yusuf, A. M., & Makarao, M. T. (2011). *Hukum kehutanan di Indonesia*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.