

THE ROLE OF MANGROVE MANAGEMENT ACTORS AND STAKEHOLDER INSTITUTIONS IN LUBUK KERTANG VILLAGE

Farid Aulia*, Agustrisno

Social Anthropology Department, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Corresponding author: farid_aulia@usu.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This research examines the role of actors and stakeholder institutions in managing mangroves in Lubuk Kertang Village. Mangrove forests are managed based on a social forestry partnership principle license issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The Mekar Group and several other non-governmental groups, as institutions that have been given management permits, have managed the existing condition of existing mangrove forests. Mangrove forest management involves the participation of local communities as actors in developing mangrove forests into ecotourism areas. This study aims to identify stakeholder actors and institutions and the extent of their respective roles in the management of Lubuk Kertang mangrove ecotourism. The research method used is qualitative by using descriptive analysis to analyze the role of actors and institutions of interest in managing mangrove ecotourism in Lubuk Kertang Village.

Keywords: Mangrove Forest Management, Partnership Social Forestry, Lubuk Kertang Ecotourism, Community Participation

INTRODUCTION

A mangrove forest in the village of Lubuk Kertang covering an area of 60 hectares has experienced ups and downs. Conditions that had experienced severe damage in the 1980-1990s have returned to green thanks to the efforts of actors and stakeholder organizations who rehabilitated the Lubuk Kertang mangrove forest area. Various mangrove forest rehabilitation policies that stakeholders have carried out have accelerated the increase in the area of mangrove forests. The results of updating the National Mangrove Map (PMN) data for 2021 show an increase in area compared to the PMN area for 2013-2019, from 3,311,245 Ha to 3,364,080 Ha (National Mangrove Map, 2021). Likewise, with the rehabilitation of mangrove forests in Lubuk Kertang Village.

The presence of Mekar Group as a mangrove manager who has been involved in rehabilitating mangrove forests in the Lubuk Kertang mangrove forest area which was previously badly damaged due to encroachment activities for raw materials for making charcoal has now become an ecotourism area. The Mekar group has formed a network node that collaborates with stakeholders in managing mangrove forests, such as PT. Pertamina Exploration and Production (EP) is a subsidiary of PT. Pertamina (Persero) is jointly committed to preserving mangrove forest areas by planting mangrove seedlings. In addition, PT. Pertamina also provides provision for group members to take part in training on managing mangrove forest areas and provides material for the construction of supporting facilities, such as building tracking, to make it easier to access mangrove forest areas.

There are still obstacles caused by the cessation of mangrove forest management activities due to policies to reduce outdoor activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. The ecotourism area facilities need to be better managed, so a study is needed to identify stakeholder actors and institutions and the extent of their respective roles in the management of the Lubuk Kertang mangrove ecotourism.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term mangrove comes from the term used for one of the mangrove forest vegetation, *Rhizophora* sp (mangrove). Mangrove forest is the collective name for the tree vegetation that occupies the muddy coast within the tidal range, from the highest tide level to the lowest low tide level. Mangrove forests are only found on beaches where the strength of the waves is broken by barriers in the form of sand, coral reefs, or islands (Eka Fitriah et al., 2013).

Mangrove forests function as green belts that grow in coastal areas with a proportional width and have a shape and physical condition built parallel to the coastline (Kustati, 2011). This green belt area is the importance of mangrove forests which can be seen from ecological, economic, and social aspects. These three aspects are essential aspects contained in the green belt. From an ecological perspective, mangroves can withstand strong wave currents with solid roots, retain mud and protect the coast from abrasion (Rahmawaty, 2006). In addition to their socioeconomic function, mangroves can improve the socioeconomic life of communities around the forest by utilizing wood and non-timber products (Kustanti, 2011).

The actors and institutions involved in managing the Lubuk Kertang mangrove forest come from various backgrounds. Government agencies, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and community organizations play a role in mangrove rehabilitation. Each actor has different interests in managing mangrove forests. Differences in interests and authority in managing mangrove forests can cause social problems and are also able to build strong social capital potential because each actor and institution as a stakeholder tries to use the authority they have for their interests (Febryano et al., 2015).

In a study (Basyuni et al., 2016) in his research in Lubuk Kertang Village, Brandan Barat District, Langkat Kanupaten, North Sumatra, improvements in ecosystem management in mangrove forests can be carried out with ecotourism activities and environmental interpretation that takes into account the carrying capacity of the area. This requires community participation to maintain and conserve mangrove forests in a sustainable manner (Raharjo et al., 2016).

METHODS

Research Approach

This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis techniques to identify and analyze actors and institutions as managers of the Lubuk Kertang mangrove forest. Descriptive analysis techniques are carried out to extract data and information about the processes or mechanisms of research subject relationships, present primary data, create new categories and classifications based on conceptual arrangements or analyze diverse data and information into interrelated phenomena (Moleong, 2003).

Researchers will enter into social conditions based on the community's perspective (emic view) comprehensively and holistically through involved observation (participatory observation), and in-depth interviews of mangrove management activities carried out by existing stakeholders (Bungin, 2017). This activity will get multi-stakeholder involvement in the mangrove management network.

Data collection

Primary data is data obtained directly through in-depth interviews with key informants. The instrument used is an interview guide (interview guide) so that the primary data collection process becomes more focused. The primary data needed is identifying actors and institutions and analyzing the extent of their involvement as managers of mangrove forests and government involvement in managing mangrove forests.

Data analysis

The qualitative data analysis is a descriptive analysis using ongoing analysis techniques to analyze actors and institutions as stakeholders by comprehensively mapping social networks in mangrove management.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Administrative and Socioeconomic

Lubuk Kertang Village is quite strategic because it traverses many rivers and grows various mangrove trees. It is said that the information obtained from informants, formerly the Lubuk Kertang mangrove forest area became a stopover for fishermen who often crossed the rivers in it to avoid tidal waves and storms from the sea. The fishermen dock their boats to stop and rest in these rivers and stay temporarily until the storm subsides.

Lubuk Kertang Village has located 12 Km to the south of the District Capital. Lubuk Kertang Village, West Brandan District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, which consists of five hamlet areas, Janggus I hamlet, li Paluh Taburan hamlet, Duaun III Tepi Gandu, Hamlet IV Alur Lebah, and Hamlet V Kelapa Enam, each hamlet was forming six RWs and 15 RTs. Most of the livelihoods of the people of Lubuk Kertang Village are rice farmers and fishermen. They are utilizing agricultural resources as a source of daily livelihood. In one family, the income of about 2 million to 5 million rupiahs per month. This income is obtained from fishing, farming, and working as laborers. The socioeconomic life of the people of Lubuk Kertang Village currently has strong interactions with mangrove forests in managing and utilizing them.

Actors and Institutions in Mangrove Forest Management

The perception of keeping mangrove forests sustainable has been going on for a long time but has yet to be identified in the form of local traditions and culture, including the preservation of mangrove forests in Lubuk Kertang Village. The form of habit in managing identified mangroves is the result of introducing external parties who teach local communities about conservation knowledge and the use of mangroves to produce products derived from mangroves. This is manifested in various forms of creation, such as handicraft mats, hat bags, culinary mangrove chips, and mangrove syrup. In addition, it utilized the mangrove area to cultivate mangrove crabs, fish, and tourist objects that are already running.

Actors and institutions managing Lubuk Kertang Village mangrove forests form a symmetrical relationship. The initial group system consisted of the Mekar Mangrove Group, the Golden Mangrove Group, the Sustainable Mangrove Group, and the Teluk Indah Mangrove Group. The forms of social relations that exist, including tenure rights to forest land, and social and economic constructions, are the background and significantly influence management in Lubuk Kertang Village. Within this scope, the form of social networks can be understood to determine access rights and management rights, and governance of mangrove forests. Involve social relations and institutions with multiple parties, government, private, BUMN, and universities.

Identification and analysis of actors and institutions found that a local figure who succeeded in pioneering mangrove rehabilitation activities in Lubuk Kertang Village was named Hardyan Jamili Batubara. He and several other figures have formed a cooperative network node. PT. Pertamina (Persero), as a stakeholder, plays a role in collaborating with the Mekar Group to build tourist facilities for the Lubuk Kertang Mangrove Forest, such as building an embankment road, all the way to the location of the Mangrove Forest tourism area, so that this provides economic income for the Mekar Group as the manager of the

mangrove forest. In addition, PT Pertamina (Persero) has made handicrafts in souvenirs, bags, hats, and sandals.

In the system of ownership of mangrove forest land, the people of Lubuk Kertang Village acknowledge that the area is owned by the government through social forestry with a partnership principle that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry gives a permit. Communities can access mangrove resources with existing rules. Parties that utilize mangrove forest land include; individual, and the Mekar Mangrove group, the Golden Mangrove Group, the Sustainable Mangrove Group, the Teluk Indah Mangrove Group. The Lubuk Village Government Institution acts as a "spokesperson" between groups and government laws in managing and deciding matters regarding mangrove forest resources related to regulations issued by the village government.

CONCLUSION

1. Stakeholder actors and institutions in mangrove management in Lubuk Kertang Village consist of central government agencies (KLHK), BUMN (PT. Pertamina Persero), and Non-Governmental Organization Groups (Mekar Mangrove Group, Golden Mangrove Group, Sustainable Mangrove Group, Teluk Indah Group Mangrove) and the Village Government of Lubuk Kertang and Hardyan Jamili Batubara as local actors managing the Lubuk Kertang mangroves.
2. The involvement of stakeholder actors and institutions has made a mangrove ecotourism area with various supporting facilities.

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