

# Gender-Oriented Community Empowerment in the Implementation of REDD+ in Meru Betiri National Park

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## Abstract

Women are so far involved inadequately in a variety of forest managements. Meanwhile, the contribution of women to development is very significant, particularly to forest management as the attempt of mitigating the climate change. Considering that phenomenon, in the attempt of managing everlasting forest, the ideal implementation of REDD+ (*Reducing Emission deforestation and forest degradation*) program requires the women participation as one indicators of successful REDD+ program implementation. Women involvement in forest management plays an urgent role that can support the optimization of everlasting forest management. The objective of research was to analyze the women empowerment in the implementation of *Reducing Emission Deforestation and Forest Degradation* program in Meru Betiri National Park, Jember, East Java.

**Keywords:** Genderoriented Community, Forest Managements, REDD+

## 1. Introduction

Climate change issue results from the increased concentration of carbon emission due to human activities in industrial sector, deforestation and forest degradation, land function switching and agriculture. It impacts on human life in the form of various natural disasters. For that reason, Indonesia is committed to reducing emission by 26% without foreign aid and or 41% with foreign aid. 2020 will be a distinctive bet when such the commitment should be integrated into Indonesian development policy. Indonesia is ready for the consequence that the largest contribution of Indonesian emission lies in forestry sector as the anticipation to deforestation and forest degradation (Forestry Ministry, 2010: 3).

Considering the illustration above, the attempts of protecting and managing forests become the essential ones because they are related to the mitigation of global climate change. The mitigation of global climate change is closely related to conservation area (Endang Suhendang, 2004: 95).

The mitigation of global climate change to be material of central discussion later in COP 13 in Bali is promoted in a mechanism of Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). After COP-14 in Poznan, Poland, a consensus resulted to expand the activities of REED, called REDD Plus. In this mechanism, financial transfer under REED-plus is not only used to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Financial transfer can also be used to conserve the carbon stock in the forest, to manage everlasting forest, and to increase the carbon stock through the activity of planting tree and rehabilitating the degraded land.

The ideal REDD+ program is the gender-oriented one, the program implemented by taking the gender dimension into account. Gender dimension uses gender analysis, in which gender analysis is defined as the process of elaborating information systematically about position, function, role, and responsibility of men and women in development program and the factors affecting it that later will be implemented in each step of program (Program Cycle), whether in need maintenance and program planning step, in implementation, or program monitoring and evaluation step. Through involving both men and women in this program, the benefit is expected to be felt by any parties and the objective to be achieved.

Considering the illustration above, this problem raises the problem of: What is the Gender-Oriented Community Empowerment in the implementation of the *Reducing Emission deforestation and forest degradation* program in Everlasting Forest Management in Meru Betiri National Park of Jember, East Java?

## 2. Method

This study describe the community empowerment in REDD program in highlighting the role of women in community empowerment through involving them actively in their life and condition to lead them to developing plan and action.

The gender analysis model employed in this research was Sara H Longwe's model (Ismi Astuti) based on the importance of development to women, dealing with gender issue as the barriers for the women empowerment in the attempts of meeting the women's specific needs and of achieving gender equality. Women empowerment

here includes: (1) capacity building, defined as building the women's capacity, (2) cultural change, is the change of culture partial to the women, and (3) structural adjustment, is the structural adjustment partial to women. The empowerment attempt focuses on the achievement of community prosperity through gender equality.

### 3. Result and Discussion

REDD+ program was conducted aiming:

- a. To improving the whole forestry governance in short term (2011-2013) in order to support the achievement of Indonesian commitment to reducing emission by 26%-41% in 2020.
- b. To practice the forest governance and management mechanism broadly as specified and developed in previous stage in medium term (2013-2020) in order to achieve the targeted emission decrease in 2020.
- c. To change the Indonesian forest's role from emitter to the sector contributing to emission reduction in long term (2013-2030) in 2030 and to ensure the sustainable economic function and ecosystem of forest.

To achieve the objectives above, the implementation of REDD+ referring to main principles including: i) efficient, ii) effective, iii) just and setting forth the gender equality, iv) transparent, and v) accountable.

Referring to Soerjono Soekanto (Soerjono Soekanto, 2000:21), there should be some conditions to be met in order to implement the REDD+ program optimally as the instrument of social change: i) REDD+ program policy is a fixed rule of law, ii) it is permanent, legitimized, iii) REDD+ program should be clear and recognized by the members of society, iv) retroactive regulation should be avoided, v) it should be socialized widely in order to be understood by the public, vi) no contradiction, vii) paying attention to the society's ability of complying with, viii) changing infrequently, and ix) the application should be corresponding to the rule.

The implementation of REDD+ program in forest protection and management as the means of social change is defined as the program of managing land and forest resource contributing to reducing GRK emission conducted in sustainably. The objectives of REDD+ are:

1. To reduce forest deforestation, this attempt is conducted through the following activities:
  - a. Dealing with fire (this effort is carried out in the attempt of eliminating uncontrolled fire flame from the land),
  - b. Forest cutting-down.
  - c. The regulation of forest area use and liberation, spatial management and infrastructure. The objective is to develop a more detailed spatial planning, effective system for managing spatial development and building macro infrastructure.
  - d. Forest conversion limitation.
2. Reducing forest degradation, this attempt was carried out through: managing the everlasting turf land conservation. The objective is to rehabilitate and to maintain the turf land and the forest resources existing; illegal logging eradication, forest area restoration, and rehabilitation and management of conservation area.
3. Increasing the carbon stock in the forest through: planting in empty land and rehabilitating.
4. Managing the everlasting turf land conservation. The objective is to rehabilitate and to maintain the turf land and the forest resources existing;
5. Conserving the carbon stock in the forest: community empowerment and social-economic development with the main purpose of reducing poverty.

The REDD program, in addition to reducing the emission of carbon in the future, also has an opportunity of optimizing the forest conservation. Conservation (Siti Khotijah, 2010: 23) is defined as the attempt of managing the forest resource, the utilization of which is undertaken wisely to ensure the sustainable supply. The forest conservation is carried out through the activities of dealing with and managing the forest oriented to local, national, regional and global interest. For that reason, the conservation of forest resource is carried out by establishing the policy that creates the condition of forest resource management based on a) resource allocation by function, b) establishment of management right and determining the justified rule of game for the forest management right holder.

Considering the illustration above, it could be concluded that the successful REDD+ program cannot be apart from support of stakeholders, particularly the customary and or local community residing inside and around the forests, who are willing to commit to standing on the forest conservation-based REDD+ implementation.

The implementation of REDD+ is an activity in forestry planning as the process of setting objective, activity and instrument required in dealing with the everlasting forest for providing guidelines and direction in order to ensure the achievement of the goal of just and sustainable forestry organization as much as possible for the prosperity of society in which the forestry planning system should be based on transparent, accountable, participative, integrative, aspirating and just principles.

#### a. Objective of Program

*Tropical Forest Conservation for Reducing Emission From Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Carbon Stocks in Meru Betiri National Park (ITTO Project PD 519/08 Rev.1(F))* is as follows: (Ari

Wibowo, 2012; 7).

General Objective: To give contribution to REDD+ and to increasing carbon stocks by improving the public participation in conservation and management of Meru Betiri National Park.

Particular Objective: To improve public participation/welfare by preventing deforestation, degradation and decrease of biodiversity and to develop a credible system for monitoring REDD+ that is measurable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV).

**b. The activities conducted in program implementation**

The identification of activities for sustainable climate change mitigating program in forestry sector obtains the following result: (Summary, 2012: 7)

**i. Activities related to community**

- Continuing education and improving the awareness by TNMB and NGO
- Improving the society income by TNMB, private and NGO
- Facilitating the community and institution activities by TNMB and NGO
- Holding a technical training for measuring carbon, monitoring and cultivating plant
- Protecting the forest (patrol, prevention and control, by TNMB, society)

**ii. Activities related to MRV in carbon estimation: (Set Up, 2012: 7)**

- Monitoring carbon stocks by society, TNMB, NGO, college
- Maintaining institutional system for monitoring carbon stocks in the forest and cultivating the plants
- Improving and conserving carbon stocks through planting and avoiding deforestation
- Making validation to assess the methodology applied by standard preferred system.

**iii. Activities related to carbon**

This activity is the one of decreasing the emission of GRK particularly CO<sub>2</sub> in the attempt of mitigating the global climate change. Demonstration activity is aimed at acquiring the learning in the attempt of developing methodology related to carbon stock estimation and local potency in absorbing carbon and the conservation effort (Delon M, 2011: 9).

The explanation about the implementation of community empowerment activity is as follows:

1. Mapping the land managed by the group from Curahnongko village; this activities include: a) borders of land managed by group; b) borders of land managed by individual farmers.
2. Mapping stage involves:
  - i) Establishing the mapping team
  - ii) Approving mapping target and objective
  - iii) Understanding the participatory mapping technique
  - iv) Field preparation: discussion with farmers about the location to be mapped, developing map sketch
  - v) Collecting data in the field
  - vi) Analyzing data
  - vii) Verifying the result
  - viii) Printing the map.
3. Facilitation through Rehabilitating the Meru Betiri National Park; this activity involves:
  - a) Mapping the agro-forestry land for the organizer coming from Curahnongko Village.
  - b) Inventorying. This activity was carried out through i) identifying the type and estimating the number of trees or seeds planted in agro-forest land, ii) determining the typology of agro-forest
  - c) Identifying the typology of agro-forest.
  - d) Developing nursery
4. The community development strategy involves the following activities:
  - a) Rehabilitating the forest through agro-forestry along with the society, including the students surrounding the national park area.
  - b) Improving the society's and the students' awareness about REDD+
  - c) Developing the activity of improving the society income
  - d) Developing other stakeholders to support the community in planting activity, PINTAR program, conservation business and etc.

Meru Betiri National Park has conducted a series of partnership activity in REDD+ program related to community participation around the national park area. Such the activity is called "building partnership for Conserving Meru Betiri" activity, constituting the follow-up of stakeholder consultation. The activities were implemented during 2010-2013. The partnership activity aims:

- i) To improve the local community welfare by improving the participation in avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, and biodiversity;
- ii) To develop a credible measurable, reportable and verifiable methodology for monitoring emission deriving from deforestation and forest degradation and improving the carbon stocks in TNMB. The outputs of activity are: (a) improving the public participation in forest conservation in Meru Betiri national park, (b)

reducing and reporting illegal logging action and related activities, (c) improving the capacity of carbon measuring inventory that is measurable, reportable and verifiable, d) developing the comprehensive baseline data report, and measuring the carbon emission and improving the carbon stocks, (e) developing and validating the monitoring system for reducing emission and increasing the carbon stocks, and (f) improving the alternative income for the community surrounding the forest.

Gender is the concept of women's and men's role and responsibility constructed by the society. Role and responsibility constructed by the society are often unbalanced and unjust. For that reason, there should be some attempts of realizing gender equality and justice.

Our country has established a strategy of realizing gender equality and justice by means of including or integrating the gender aspect in Gender Dynamic and Natural Resource Management into the national development process. Such the strategy was called gender mainstreaming, abbreviated with GM and its implementation was confirmed by Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2000. This gender mainstreaming strategy should be applied to entire process of government institution. In other words, entire developmental process (from development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) should take the gender-responsive men's and women's needs into account. The gender mainstreaming process requires separated data between women and men, and gender-analysis ability in order to yield responsive-gender development planning and budget.

To give contribution to gender mainstreaming process in any sector, the gender aspect should be included, from the planning to the last stages. In carrying out the gender analysis, we can see whether or not women and men get equal participation, decision making, control, and benefit accesses to natural resource and natural resource management. Knowing that, we can plan, arrange, implement, monitor and evaluate the natural resource management effectively in gender-responsive manner. It is very important because women are often marginalized in the term of natural and forest resource management, whereas the women life in inland area is closely related to natural life. Women even can contribute more actively to reforestation stage, including in seedling activity before the seed is transferred to the forest. Then, what is the relationship of gender to REDD program?

One of principles in mitigating the climate change in managing the forest in REDD forest is equality. It is not only equality role of different stakeholders but also gender equality. Many experiences show gender gap in forest management still occurring so far. The women's role is often considered as trivial. Such the gap occurs unconsciously and invisibly in the form of subordination, stereotype, marginalization and women dual burden.

Considering the illustration above, the study on gender-perspective problem in REDD program is based on the gender-analysis model, Sara H Longwe's model, that builds on the importance of development to women, deals with gender issue as the barriers of women empowerment in the attempt of meeting the women's specific need and of achieving gender equality. Women empowerment here includes: (1) capacity building, defined as building the women's capacity, (2) cultural change, is the change of culture partial to the women, and (3) structural adjustment, is the structural adjustment partial to women. The empowerment attempt focuses on the achievement of community prosperity through gender equality.

There are 5 criteria of analysis used in this method. They are as follows: (1) activity profile based on labor division concept by gender, detailing the real activity by gender, to facilitate the analysis, the activity profile is generally categorized into domestic or reproductive, public and productive, political and social-cultural activity. With the activity indentifying process based on gender through profile, the role of women and men can be recognized precisely.

(2) access, detailing what sources the women and the men master to carry out their activities and what benefit everyone gets, and the product of such the activity; access is the opportunity of using or utilizing resource without power to master the resource, (3) socialization, (4) participation, (5) control, is the mastery of resource, the authority of making decision regarding the use of resource.

The analysis on the factors affecting access and control activity. This analysis identifies the factors resulting in the difference of opportunity for women and men participation, demographic, education, and bureaucracy training, social-cultural, society norm and religious factors. Dimension of prosperity constitutes the extent to which the basic needs, such as food, health, shelter, and etc, are enjoyed by women and men. Dimension of access to resource: Dimension of critical socialization or realization is emphasized on the need for critical realization that gender gap occurring because of social cultural factor and its characteristics may change. Participation dimension: underrepresentation of low class in the apparently elite institution. Control dimension: allocation of power between women and men in any sector.

Furthermore, the description is as follows:

#### **Access**

- a. Who do conserve and manage forest, women or men? How can it affect their time available to working other activities?

- b. What knowledge do the women and the men have about the REDD-based forest management?
- c. Who are entitled to enjoy the benefit of carbon selling result in REDD program?
- d. When the forest is damaged because of various causes such as deforestation, forest degradation, illegal logging, forest firing, who is responsible and who does participate in forest rehabilitating activity?
- e. When the REDD program is implemented, in fact the forest cutting-down still runs, who is responsible for that matter?

#### **Control**

- a. What change do the people want to improve their life welfare? Whether cutting down the forest or conserving the forest in the attempt of REDD?
- b. In managing the forest, whose workload will change? What should the men and the women do to be involved in forest management?
- c. How to control the benefit of forest through REDD mechanism? Do the custom's responsibilities for the forest management restrict the women in decision making regarding REDD program?
- d. Are there any different perception on forest management impacting on the profit share between the men and the women, the have and the have-not? Who does make final decision about that matter?

#### **Role**

- a. What factors do support the women and the men to participate in socialization about REDD implementation?
- b. Do the women and the men realize their position as the recipient of largest incentive when the forest is intact and well-maintained so that the involvement of local people in dealing with carbon becomes commodity?
- c. Do the women and the men know the policy on REDD over the forest?
- d. Do the men find out the mechanism of right to carbon impacting on incentive?
- e. Are the women supported to enter the Forest Management Committee? Does the society establish the regulation about what proportion of men and women that should occupy the position in forest management group and how are they selected, for example the women and the men elect their own representative. Do the women need support to go forward in election? What role do they take?
- f. Will the paid job opportunity resulting from the project activity be offered evenly to the women and the men?
- g. Is it possible for dual workload to occur to the women and the men with better access in the attempt of managing forest? Does the women's workload increase?

#### **Benefit**

- a. What benefit do the men and the women get in REDD mechanism, whether it is reduced emission, conserved forest or improved welfare?
- b. Do the women have adequate knowledge on forest management?
- c. Do the women play a critical role in maintaining the financial management system for the profit of carbon emission?

It is important to reinforce the women resource, program access, responsive policy, control, and benefit; it can be carried out in various activities:

- a. Improving the women's independency and resource quality, participation reinforcement through group and institutional access
- b. Improving the women's ability of managing and utilizing the forest resource optimally and sustainably in environmental conservation.
- c. Developing partnership with related institution in supporting the community empowerment.

The program related to women empowerment is related to forest conservation and rehabilitation activity, law enforcement over illegal logging and destructive attempt threatening the quality of forest resource thereby affecting the women prosperity.

Institutionally, there should be agro-forestry pattern development involving the women's ability through women group in order to expand networking.

Gender-oriented community empowerment is the community empowerment program based on the women power adjusted with their aspiration. The advocacy program is required that gives the women the opportunity of developing their self-competency in order to be able to meet their basic needs in their daily life. Adequate production infrastructure and the improved role of women institution as a means of collective action serve to achieve the common objective, and to create independent productive activity based on local resource conducted sustainable supported by responsive market and mutually beneficial business climate, so that the women will be empowered toward the real independency.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Women empowerment is the attempt toward women's active participation in forest management activity. In

order to participate, the women should be empowered. The implementation of gender-oriented REDD+ program should take control, policy, women role and benefit into account. In the REDD+ program, the women empowerment is conducted in forest conservation and rehabilitation sectors.

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