

# Production Forest Utilization Strategy as Ecotourism for Community Empowerment in East Java

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## Abstract

Production Forest Utilization Strategy as Ecotourism for Community Empowerment in East Java is one way in which the Ministry of Forestry through Perhutani to help communities around the forest production, in order to be helped welfare. Through the utilization of production forests for community development in East Java is one of the regional development priority which aims to develop the socio-economic potential and improve the lives of people in the region. In connection with that in mind, the results of this research report is an effort to assess the Production Forest Utilization Strategy as Ecotourism in managing the natural resources available in the region to support the success of community development in East Java. From these results it can be concluded that the government expected can provide socialization, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of routine and active against forestry programs that have been or are being implemented in production forest areas in East Java. In addition, socio-economic sensitivity of society around production forest in empowering families who can not afford to be more instrumental in providing knowledge on how entrepreneurship-based utilization of forest utilization as ecotourism for community development in East Java.

**Keywords:** Strategy, Production Forest, Ecotourism, Empowerment

## 1. Introduction

The setting on the forest resources management associated with sustainable development is clearly visible in the Act No. 41 of 1999 about Forestry (Abdurrahman, 2003). Article 3 of the Act defines the implementation of forestry aims for the greatest prosperity of the people are equal and sustainable by: (a) ensuring the existence of the forest with an area sufficient and proportionate distribution; (b) optimizing the various functions of forests that includes the function of conservation, protection function, and the function of production to achieve the benefits of environmental, social, cultural, and economic, balance and sustainable; (c) increasing the carrying capacity of watersheds; (d) increasing the capacity and capability to develop community empowerment participatory, equitable, and environmentally friendly so as to create the social and economic resilience and resistance due to external changes; and (e) ensuring equitable distribution of benefits and sustainable

According to Awang et al. (2008), sustainable management of forest resources can be assessed based on the aspects of forest management consists of ecological, social and economic and institutional. Ecological sustainability is defined as the management of the resources to be able to maintain a stable, avoiding the exploitation of natural resources, maintenance of biodiversity, the stability of the air space and other ecosystem functions. Social sustainability is defined as a system that is capable of achieving social justice, human dignity and improving the quality of life of all human qualities. Economic sustainability is defined as the management of forest resources that provide benefits in a sustainable manner. Institutional sustainability can be defined as the management that can make people self-sufficient, have confidence, ability and commitment to manage the forest resources that exist to improve the state of the economy, conserve the environment and improve the stability of social life (Wibowo, 2008).

From this perspective, since 2001 through Decree No. 136/KPTS/DIR/2001 Perum Perhutani develop Program Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Masyarakat (PHBM), which is a management system conducted by Perum Perhutani and forest villagers with interested parties (stakeholder) with share soul so a common interest to achieve sustainability of the functions and benefits of forest resources can be realized optimally and proportionate. PHMB program is aimed at improving the welfare of society and the forests conservation. PHBM objectives of the program are: (a) the success of forest development and optimization of its functions (ecological, social and economic); (b) make community empowerment particularly Lembaga Masyarakat Desa Hutan (LMDH) as a source of solutions and the improvement of people's welfare; (c) the successful development of forest villages to the independent eco-conscious society; and (d) integrate forest management system implemented by Perum Perhutani with regional development policy.

Community-based forest management strategies in the field of forestry through PHMB program is a new paradigm. Forest management that used to focus only on the economic aspects (timber) develops into management towards sustainability of forest resources and community empowerment. This paradigm shift is considered important because: (a) forest management approach based on the state on a large scale that applied previously, failed to give tangible results in improving the quality of life of the people especially those living in and around forest areas, and fail to preserve the function of the forest itself ; (b) the ability of countries to manage forests more limited, while the pressure on the sustainability of forest resources of the greater; and (c) local communities who live in and around forests are a potential asset in maintaining, managing and conserving

forests (Department of Forestry, 2006).

Forest resource management-based community through PHBM this if it is associated or connected with Act Number 32 Year 2004 on Regional Government and Act No. 33 of 2004 on Center and Regional Financial Balance, will be a system of management policy or management of forest resources oriented collaboration between companies and local governments in establishing cooperation with the village community forests as well as stakeholders were based on the principle of shared learning, mutual trust and mutual respect for their respective roles in the context of forest resources management by integrating economic, ecological and social aspects, in proportion to mandate or purpose of Act No. 41 of 1999 about Forestry.

The shape of the PHBM activities carried Perhutani and local governments along forest villagers and other stakeholders in this perspective includes sharing in land use or zoning, to share in the use of time, to share the utilization of the forest resource management with the principle of mutual benefit, mutually reinforcing and mutually support. Forms of forest resources management activities that can be managed with the community are the types of activities based on land (land bezed) carried out in forest areas and can also be developed outside the forest area by utilizing the land or space through planting pattern adapted to the characteristics of the region. The patterns that fit the characteristics of the area is the cropping pattern that can develop biodiversity and forestry commodities, agriculture, plantation, animal husbandry, fishery by optimizing the functions and benefits of natural resources.

In the PHBM program concept, shape and variety of activities in the implementation of PHBM include non-physical activities such as mentoring and empowerment of forest communities and physical activity in the form of construction of unproductive forest area with the pattern "plong-plongan" which is one form of application of the system of social forestry, where forest areas not only provide financial benefits for the company's benefit, but forestry must participate to improve the welfare of society. In the implementation, not the entire forest area planted with forestry but was given a room with a certain width in the form of "plong-plongan" (farm track) with the purpose as a vehicle for the community to increase revenue.

Communities around the forest area was given the rights to manage the land in the path "plong-plongan" is to produce food, fodder, fuel wood, construction timber and other productive results. A period of community involvement in forest management and "plong-plongan" utilization is not only limited to 2-3 years as the model of intercropping, but can run up to 10-15 years and even until the end of the cycle. Community in working groups also actively involved from the planning, planting, maintenance, harvesting and the timber in a position as an equal partner. Per theory, if the PHBM program can be implemented as mentioned above, the forest resource management would be able to increase the empowerment of rural communities around the forest.

PHBM program implementation in East Java that has been accomplished so far is still limited to production forests managed by Perhutani and has not been developed in protected forest areas are also managed by Perhutani. The impression among the public that they actually exploited become cheap labor for planting and maintenance of plants wood became the principal commodity of Perhutani. In other words, community participation in CBFM program is still limited as a business opportunity "than nothing at all", and not in the form of community empowerment for self. In this kind of construction, management of forest resources back to the old paradigm that focused on the economic aspects (timber) and was not able to provide social benefits in the form of increased community empowerment.

On the other hand, utilization of production forests for activities other than agriculture in the form of "plong-plongan" land use for crops and other annual crops has not been developed. Indeed, in some districts, among others, as in Mojokerto, Nganjuk and Malang will be the location of this study, there have been development of production forests for ecotourism activities, but is still very limited in the locations of production forests bordering with protected forest that has beauty of natural scenery such as waterfalls and lakes. While production forests have the potential beauty of natural scenery such as waterfalls and lakes are just a little bit. It is still managed by Perhutani, and has not been developed to be managed through the PHBM program.

In fact, as has been started to be developed in other provinces in Java such as in Central Java and West Java Province, forest production which does not have the potential beauty of natural scenery such as waterfalls and lakes can already be used for activities local scale ecotourism in the form of tourism-related science, education, research, outdoors tourism, camping (camping ground), use of lanes for tracking and adventure, bird park, sports, playground for children and teenagers, fishing, and so on.

If the use of production forests for local ecotourism this can be developed and packaged by Perhutani in cooperation with local authorities and stakeholders and involving communities around the forest area in the form of PHBM program, the production forests can be translated into local sights potential for public middle class below. In the early stages, or the development of forest utilization and production to ecotourism targeted to lower middle class citizens at the local level. If the use or development can be packaged well, is not impossible in its development will become a regional tourism attraction. PHBM program development for the management of forest resources, combined with the utilization of production forests as local level ecotourism, will be able to expand and or increase opportunities for rural communities around the forest area which in turn can boost the

empowerment of the community.

With this background, there is a problem that must be studied. First, the problems of implementation in forest management policy with the community through PHBM program. Secondly, how the utilization of production forests as ecotourism. Lastly, the issue of forest utilization strategy as ecotourism production through PHBM program to empower communities around the production forest area.

## 2. Research Methods

**Research Type.** Kind of research is qualitative (descriptive-analytics) by looking at the object of research, where researchers directly observed (dig the data directly to the field), and conduct in-depth interviews (in-depth interviews) to find data or other supporting information (analysis).

**Research Location.** The research location is determined purposive in three (3) districts in East Java province, namely: (1) Mojokerto; (2) Nganjuk; and (3) Malang. Reasons why the chosen are 3 (three) districts, is due in three (3) of the district of production forest area is quite large, and in these three districts have long implemented PHBM program.

**Sampling Technique.** Selection is done by purposive sample, consisting of two (2) main groups, namely: First, respondents were targeted and or community groups as program beneficiaries, namely community groups PHBM program participants. Second, is the informant who is the parties involved in PHBM program management, namely: local Perum Perhutani official, local government official agencies, the village chief, the board of the Institute of Forest Village Community (LMDH), PHBM program officer/executive field, community leaders, LSM and other informants that deemed necessary.

**Data Collection Technique.** There are data collection techniques, i.e. in-depth interviews, observation and document analysis. In-depth interview (in-depth interview), was made to dig the data deeper. Observations or observation, the observation of physical activity to see firsthand the conditions in the field and confirming the various problems found. Observations made in this study, according Sugiyono (2008:69-70) is descriptive observation, the observations made at the time of entering the social situation as an object of research. Observations at this stage are often referred to as a grand tour of observation, which resulted in the conclusion first. At this stage the team of researchers conducted a description of all that is seen, heard, and felt, as well as a variety of problematic situations encountered on the implementation of the PHBM program which includes the performance of implementation, community development aspect of the PHBM program, and forest product utilization for ecotourism through PHBM program. Analysis of documents, namely activities as a complement to the data and information analysis obtained in the field.

**Data Analysis Technique.** The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive qualitative, which is a process of induction is done to make the description about a particular object of observation. The process begins by way of listening to an object that exists in nature sensory, identify and define the various symptoms which are an aspect of the observed object, and then bracket into a number of conceptual categories, which as a whole will give a complete picture of the object to be listened to it (Wignjosebroto, 2007: 23).

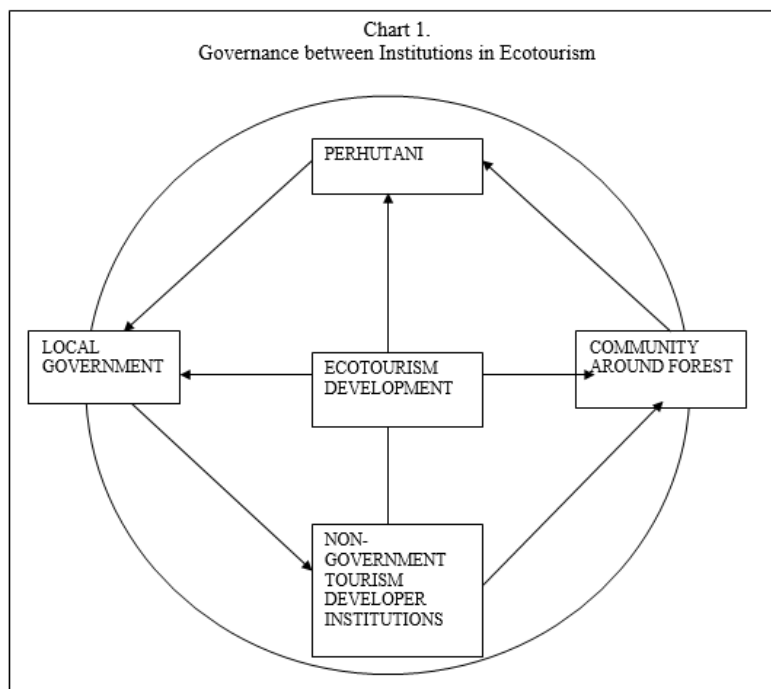
Technically analysis of the data in this study by Miles and Huberman (1992: 76), using three grooves interconnected analysis, and includes: data reduction, data presentation, and verification or conclusion. To make recommendations in the form of research utilization strategy of production forest as ecotourism area to empower communities around the forest area is based on SWOT analysis.

## 3. Data Findings and Data Analysis

Development of Production Forest as Ecotourism. Underlying the observations and interviews in the study site, namely: Coban Rondo Regions (Kab. Malang), Pacet Regions (Kab. Mojokerto) and Sedudo Regions (Kab. Nganjuk), then in each region, the community has worked with KPH Perhutani and/or PALAWI (a subsidiary of forestry in the areas of tourism development) through LMDH in PHBM program. Their efforts are vary, some of which for example elephant grass planting to feed dairy cows in Pujon, flowers sown and Palawija in Sedudo and vegetables planting in Pacet. In addition to these efforts, local communities work together in a nursery, planting and processing of forest products, such as: tapping pine in the Sajen village, Pacet (Mojokerto).

Furthermore, in the Cuban Rondo (KPH Malang), through PALAWI, people involved in the management of tourism, Cuban Rondo handled directly by PT. PALAWI (Perhutani Alam Wisata). PALAWI is a subsidiary of Perum Perhutani engaged in tourism management especially natural attractions that were previously handled by PERHUTANI and Tour & Travel. PT.PALAWI stood since July 31, 2002 and commenced operations on August 28, 2002. Besides managing Water ecotourism Cuban Rondo, Malang, today also managing Batu Raden Waterfall ecotourism in Central Java. In the management, residents could be working in it or contribute to trade and become a parking lot in the tourism area. The same thing is done by PT Obech in Sajen, Pacet. In its CSR, PT Obech also helps facilitate all LMDH activities, including the development of "home base" in the houses. Sedudo Region, people involved to develop a variety of businesses, among others: food trade, at tourism sites.

Institutional Ecotourism Management Strategy. The strategy is formulated community development efforts by focusing attention on the social typology of communities in and around forests and forest management authority typology. Empowerment of communities in and around forests is an obligation of the Government, the Provincial, and District/Municipal and implemented by the Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan (KPH) along the KPH has been formed. If the KPH is not yet formed the implementation of community development carried out by forestry institutions in the region. Obligations of community empowerment implementation, among others, include assisting the preparation of the management plan area of community development and institutional capacity building.

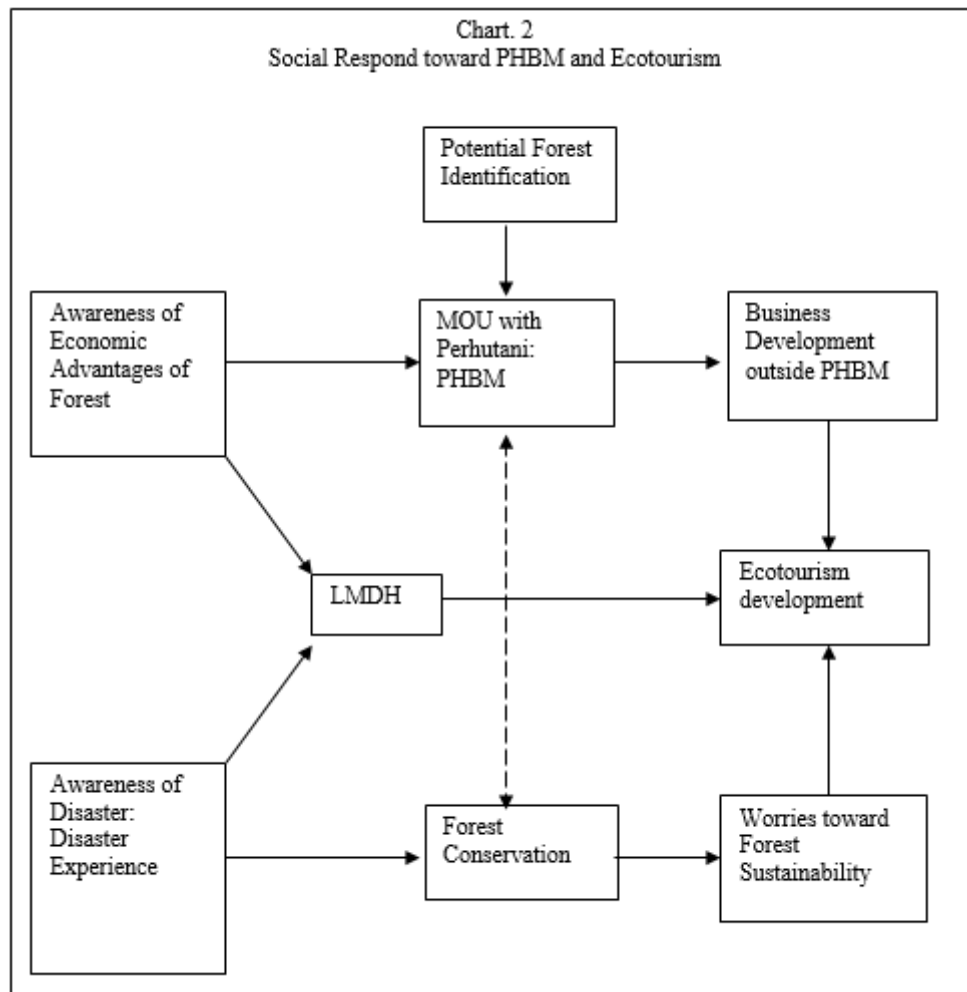


Institutional governance strategy includes (1) a public relations community with forest stakeholders' that frequently distortion. Therefore, first there needs to be awareness and common understanding proportionally over the position, authority, roles and responsibilities between the public, private, and government (central and local). (2) a mechanism for the forest utilization, which includes community role setting in forest use, the materials and the process of making rules (who is allowed to use the forest; how forms of forest use, time, amount, location, technology and forest utilization; how techniques make utilization forest arrangements; how the monitoring and evaluation system; how conflict resolution mechanisms; and how the adjustment mechanism or adaptation of regulation to local peculiarities). (3) the form of the rules (written or oral, formal or informal), and (4) the availability of formal rules and regulations - if possible - include the provision of the limits of authority and responsibilities of the parties, AD/ART, licensing, and employment agreements.

**PHBM Implementation Analysis and Ecotourism Development.** The three study sites (Kab. Nganjuk, Mojokerto and Kab. Malang), the implementation of the PHBM can be analyzed has been going well. It was marked by the involvement of forest communities in the container LMDH. This participation can not be separated from the two (2) things. First, the economic functions of forests awareness in the neighborhood (awareness of the economic advantages of forest). They, residents around the forest, have long enjoyed a small scale advantages over the existence of forests, among others: the provision of firewood from tree branches. The need to be able to enjoy the results, in addition to the provision of firewood, are getting when they have limited land. Secondly, awareness of disaster risks of forests mismanagement (disaster awareness). The underlying at a number of experiences of, for example, Pacet residents by landslides and floods or Ngliman residents with catastrophic forest fires, residents realize that in addition there are economic benefits, such as the availability of land and the results of the woods, there is a risk of disaster to be borne at any time, Awareness is very high, especially for those directly experiencing and have sufficient background knowledge about forestry. Both of these are an encouragement to engage in PHBM to manage forests. Through LMDH, they did MOU to manage the forest.

Indeed, not all production forests have the potential of ecotourism in one hand. On the other hand, not all LMDH have the ability to develop ecotourism industry. Ecotourism growing in these three areas is ecotourism that actually not new, such as Padusan hot bath, Cuban Rondo and Sedudo which is the development of ecotourism long before the PHBM program. Third place it does not require promotion, and managed by

Perhutani (Palawi). Becomes different when the new sites, the ability of resident surrounding communities do not have the capacity for it.



As a consequence, for the production of forest utilization investors or local companies that can examine the potential entry into the region. Plus, there are striking differences between company services in Ecotourism and local communities. Service Company of ecotourism has their ability to have cooperation with Perhutani, as happened in PT Obech.

To overcome this, then there are three corporate strategies, namely: governance areas, business and institutional. Ecotourism certainty under the governance that becomes very important. However, more than that, a clear mechanism and the ease of obtaining license to be the key for the development of ecotourism. It is understandable because when ecotourism can develop, if the development of infrastructure that followed. It can not be addressed by forestry and LMDH. Meanwhile, when the tours are growing, it is not wrong when the residents also take advantage of selling or other economic activities. It becomes a problem when it does not have the ability to access, as happen to some Sajen citizens who want to set up shop.

#### 4. Closing

The development of ecotourism in production forests is an option to acquire forest use outside its characteristics in one hand. On the other hand, ecotourism development is the answer to the needs of people outside, especially urban areas, for recreation. If you follow the thought of sociology of tourism, one of the ratings is based on the objective characteristics are natural attractions. Types such traveler is greater in urban areas, including in the cities of East Java. Therefore, utilization of production forests to ecotourism has had suitability. Further, when a better development, theoretically would be to produce a multiplier effect, including the economic aspects, for the surrounding community. In short, this ecotourism development could serve as a model for community development around the production forest

Through PHBM, villagers around the forest are actually ready to develop LMDH institutional. Chairman and board of LMDH proved to be really able to build a network of partnerships with forestry through the MOU. Society also has a consciousness, either from past experience before and after engaging in LMDH and

follow the PHBM program. From the past experience, they, the villagers around the forest, aware the importance of forest conservation. Therefore, the concerns and the assumption that community involvement in the management could result forest damage should be eliminated.

However, there are several things to note for note. First, there has been no governance are clearly understood by the local people who will participate in the development of ecotourism. Confusion occurs when local people tried to take care of permitting the use of land for non-PHBM, namely trade. Licensing matters deemed too "bureaucratic" and this is understood not discourage the involvement of local communities.

Second, the results of this study also showed a lack of synergy between Perhutani (KPH and Palawi) and local government agencies (Dishutbun and Dispenda). This lacking synergistic relationship and there has been no grand design shared between the Perhutani, local government and local communities are accommodated by this LMDH effect on ecotourism development. Keep in mind, Perhutani has been mapped to the identification of potential industrial plants and plants that may be developed by the community through PHBM. Such things can be forwarded to ecotourism planning and development of tourist services industry as well as other small industry that became multiplier effect of ecotourism.

Third, the existence of the grand design of the development of ecotourism in turn should be considered shared between Perhutani, local government and local communities about the ability of local communities to participate in the ecotourism. There are a few things to note that the local community is still limited business development associated with the PHBM program, such as: elephant grass plant for cattle, and garden vegetables (carrots and cabbages), but has not led to ecotourism. That is, in the case of dairy cattle business, the milk produced is intended to be sold to dairies through cooperatives. Dairy products are not processed to be sold within the framework of the development of ecotourism.

Chart 1. SWOT Matrix Analysis

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNAL FACTORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXTERNAL FACTORS</p>	<p>Advantages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecologically ground water and air condition are still quite good</li> <li>2. Preserved Forest Potential and can be developed further</li> <li>3. Awareness towards forest preservation, because of disaster experience and forest high economic aspect.</li> <li>4. The synergic myth and belief with forest preservation</li> <li>5. Society's alternative income around forest</li> <li>6. Simple economic institutional in community, in the form of koperasi, arisan etc.</li> <li>7. Social institutions which can be synergized with forest preservation</li> </ol>	<p>Weakness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start the emergence of land degradation due to erosion, agriculture and settlement</li> <li>2. Development of residential areas and tourism, began to reduce the diversity of wildlife in the forest</li> <li>3. Only a small percentage of people who know the forest and engaged in PHBM activities and the development of ecotourism</li> <li>4. Lack of optimal utilization of social institutions that exist in society</li> <li>5. The development of tourist areas has not contributed optimally to the economy of the community</li> <li>6. Most of the people still depend on the forest to survive</li> <li>7. Lack of coordination between institutions and the absence of a clear institutional design</li> </ol>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are several undeveloped forest and tourism potential</li> <li>2. There are awareness of many parties on the tourism area development</li> <li>3. There are potential to involving society institution outside forest area</li> <li>4. There are some outside investment that synergized in the forest area development</li> <li>5. There are positive response of the society to the forest tourism development</li> <li>6. There are agency/institution outside forest society that has forest development and preservation vision</li> </ol>	<p>S-O Strategy (Using Power to develop opportunities):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of new tourist potential with the aspect of ecological and environmental sustainability</li> <li>2. Expand awareness and dissemination to the public of the benefits of ecotourism both economically and ecologically</li> <li>3. The use of social institutions, myths, public confidence to support the development of ecotourism</li> <li>4. Increased community involvement in the program development of ecotourism</li> <li>5. Accelerating the improvement of the welfare of forest communities, by providing economic spaces in the development of ecotourism</li> </ol>	<p>W-O Strategy (Tackling Weakness to develop opportunities):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducting a series of activities aimed at the preservation and improvement of environmental carrying capacity</li> <li>2. Protection against potential and forest resources</li> <li>3. Encourage communities to develop alternative earning potential synergies with the development of ecotourism</li> <li>4. Improved coordination among agencies, both in the internal community forest areas and at the level of policy making (Perhutani, local government, Palawi, LMDH)</li> <li>5. Establish/coordination forum be room for discussion, problem-solving and planning future development</li> </ol>
<p>Threats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The rise of residential areas and agricultural development which reduces forest area</li> <li>2. The threat of destruction/preservation of tourism forest done by visitors</li> <li>3. The possibility of the emergence of outsiders who take advantage of the development of tourism for personal use</li> <li>4. The inclusion of tourism products from outside the region and compete with local results</li> <li>5. The possibility of the emergence of the intervention of outside parties that could divert the original purpose of tourism development</li> </ol>	<p>S-T Strategy (Using Power to develop opportunities)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design rules to restrict the development of residential areas and agric-food that goes into the forest area of tourism, through the regulation of regents to local regulations</li> <li>2. Law enforcement in the protection of forests by involving the community</li> <li>3. Increase the capacity of social institutions at the local level to the expansion of community involvement in the development of ecotourism</li> <li>4. The development and expansion of the capacity of economic institutions of society to promote the welfare of society in the context of ecotourism</li> <li>5. Develop alternative income communities through increased cooperation with external parties (investors, developers, etc.)</li> </ol>	<p>W-T Strategy (Tackling Weakness to develop opportunities):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Synchronize the development of production forest area for ecotourism with a variety of existing stakeholders</li> <li>2. Develop a forest community's economy through capital aid so as to become a major actor in the development of ecotourism</li> <li>3. Design the policy of which is able to synergize between SMEs at the local level with the investment that will be included in the development of ecotourism</li> <li>4. Designing the rules Regent / Mayor or regional regulations strengthen the presence of forestry stakeholders Communication Forum</li> </ol>

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, some suggestions and strategies that can be done in the future are as follows:

1. Development of new potential tourism with the ecological aspect and environmental sustainability. For that, it needs PHBM awareness and policy socialization by the government to businesses, investors and the surrounding society, so it is not only economically beneficial, but also maintain the ecology of the forest;
2. Strengthening society institutions in an effort to support the development of ecotourism, among others:

- by means of the strengthening of the MOU between the company and LMDH. Fill MOU not only contains the obligations, responsibilities and rights of each party, but also the more intensive organizational coaching and motivation for the surrounding society.
3. Improving the entrepreneurial ability of forest societies through LMDH. In the District. Mojokerto as example need more intensive involvement of LMDH in the development of outbound travel or develop home stay management in population for the better. Moreover, the development of small business households in the manufacture of snack for better quality forest products and diverse, among others: mushroom snack. Something similar can be done in the Kab. Nganjuk growing crops the same, namely: yam and cassava. In addition, other products are clove oil produced from plants of local communities. Meanwhile, in the District. Malang, local people can be invited to develop the amounts of dairy products, in addition to selling it in the form of fresh milk to the Koperasi. Processed include: yoghurt. Perhutani is to facilitate the existence of such a keyword in a harmonious relationship to society.
  4. In connection with the three things mentioned above, there needs to be a grand design made by the Local Government (provincial and district) in cooperation with Perhutani, (potential) investors and the communities surrounding the forest. This grand design was developed with a more fundamental and is known by the public, especially for forest communities, universities and LSM to be criticized. Need to obtain records on the grand design is not only related to the potential of the forest, but pay attention to the carrying capacity of the forest, and the characteristics of the threat.
  5. Another note is the assistance to LMDH it has done well. Therefore, to consider providing training in companion more intensive, related to the implementation of PAR (Participation Action Research) in the development of society. At once, giving a strong motivation for a companion in addition to the financial incentives earned. The involvement of universities in the framework of KKN (Kuliah Kerja Nyata) or apprenticeship by mentoring will be an alternative to the addition of assistants. In addition, the engagement will be useful both for Perhutani, colleges and surrounding communities in maintaining forest environment Preservation.

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