IPs Rights Integrated into Government Decentralized Forest Management Units (KPH)

Introduction:
Since 2013-2017 the work to build a model KPH that integrates customary rights recognition with community participation in sustainable forest management for low carbon development in Papua has been supported by DANIDA-IUCN Pro Poor REDD Project, NiCFI, CLUA and other funding through the Samdhana Institute partnerships with local organization. Papua forest management is threatened by weak tenure, lack of genuine participation and minimum benefits to Papuan indigenous peoples.

Samdhana bridged partnerships with Forests Management Unit (KPH) Biak Numfor Papua, KLHK, Papua State University, Local NGO Rumsram and Mnikwar, Byak Customary Assembly and customary communities in Eastern Biak, and district and provincial governments to build trust and find common ground. The current long term forest management plan document, covering 206,016 ha area of KPH in Biak-Numfor integrates the role of IPs in local forest management.

The eastern part of KPHL Biak Numfor which administratively delineated as one of six resorts in KPHL Biak Numfor was selected to become the focus of this partnership. 5 villages with the 14 clans customary owners of Aur group are the targeted beneficiaries the project have investing through serials of technical assessment and livelihoods development intervention.

Why: Papua Papua remains host to the largest contiguous forest areas in Indonesia estimated at 35 million hectares, with potential for generating low emission development models. Additionally Ministry of Forestry Decree SK.481/Menhut-II/2009 approved designation of 56 units of KPH in Papua, covering 18,180,201 ha or 58.49 % of Papua forests reserves. Further, there is a need to develop culturally appropriate and decentralized forests management approaches that benefit local people to address the poverty reduction and solving resources conflict in Papua. Biak District in Papua in 2011 catches this chance and then emerged as one of the Model in Papua. Understanding the de facto customary right claim it has offered the KPH block for co-management, to address challenges of sustainable forest management, solve conflict, weak institutional arrangements and legal certainty for customary community rights and their legal participation in managing their forests resources.

The KPH policy deals with the challenge of decentralized forests management schemes that improve the value of forests to the region and its people. National and provincial programs prioritized KPH, yet in 2013 stakeholder mapping assessment conducted by Samdhana Institute found that there are still big gap of knowledge, understanding and capacity at the local level to enhance the effective work of the KPH. Social issues have also emerged including lack of clarification of customary rights within the KPH, as well as the gaps in local policy development to position and reinforce the role of KPHs in Papua.
**What:** The project started in Biak Numfor with stakeholder mapping to understand how the FMU/KPH could work with the rightsholders. Supported then provided to finalizing the long term management plan of the KPH. Here series of consultation processes and discussion at local level has been conducted. Project then increased support to focus on eastern part of the KPH by supports the customary boundary mapping, customary community timber management and eco-tourism building, develop web based platform for FMU and supported the transformation of the FMU into a business body. All of these were developed through a partnership between FMU with the forests customary right holders.

**How Much:** Under join funding support from NICFI, DANIDA funding to IUCN Pro Poor REDD Project, CLJUA, Local Government fund and other donors supports, funding from $ 60,000 USD to $ 75,000 USD each year were allocated through small grant program to support the work of a total of 4 partners, KPHL Biak Numfor, MNUKWAR PAPUA, Papua State University (UNIPA) – Manokwari and RUMSRAM Biak. As addition about $ 20,000 USD were provided to hired the technical expertise and facilitated their trips to assisted the partners in Biak.

**Results:** Stakeholder mapping report and the document of long term forests management Plan in FMU Biak Numfor has described the rightsholders of the forest within the FMU, which guide the FMU to work in a partnership scheme with the rightsholders. In 2016 KPH Biak Numfor was awarded a prize as one of the top three best protection KPH in Indonesia. Because of this project contribution, the KPH in Biak has developed mechanisms of partnership between local government with customary communities to conduct forests resources management within their customary rights, and develop ecotourism options. As shown recently where the village key stakeholders inaugurated the Eastern Biak eco-tourism unit and get the partnership agreement with the KPH in the table. They have also succeed in encouraged tourism department and department of public works to allocating fund and project in infrastructure building for the tourism. The performance of the KPH has also attracted the Korean Company works and develops the bamboo plantation industry where community participation is on of the key prerequisites. KPH Biak-Numfor has now become a key reference of the Provincial Forestry Department and KLHK to develop a KPH in Papua.

**Lesson Learned:** KPH is a KLHK (Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan) flagship, that is ready for implementation in forest areas for protection, conservation and concessions. It works best in state forest areas that is able to integrate customary rights based on Constitutional Court Ruling No 35 of 2012 about Customary Forests. It therefore potentially provides space to enhance the participation of customary community to significantly enhance management of their forests. But the work in KPH Biak is exceptional because of there are good leadership qualities of the KPH head. He is also able to work with local NGOs and is committed and equipped with community facilitation skills, openness and has cultural understanding.

**Lessons include:**
- Good Leadership: A vision, commitment to local partnerships and strong leadership is crucial at the beginning of the KPH. Mainstreaming leadership programs and support systems in the KPH should be a priority including challenge funds or flexible systems of funding local participation, including mapping and organizational development of local stakeholders.
- Good technical knowhow: Provision of good technical, links with NGOs for good social and business capacity helps KPH and community organizations, and reduces long term dependency of outsider facilitators.
- Good cultural understanding and flexibility to accommodate rights, mapping and other stakeholders interests;
- Government support: ability to maximize legal, regulatory and programmatic instruments are available at district and provincial governments is very important.
- An active and effective collaboration among the government unit, NGO/CSO and community group are fundamental to support the FMU addressing the issues of right claim and community legal access to manage their resources.

**Geographic Location:** Biak Numfor, the District in Papua Province of Indonesia. Pilots intervention sites in KPH starting with 5 Villages in Eastern Biak; Sepse, Bakribo, Soon, Makmakerbo, Sauri.

**Project Implementation Partner:**
- KPHL Biak Numfor – The Forest Management Unit of Biak Numfor in the Province of Papua
- MNUKWAR – Local NGO based in Manokwari. Mnukwar is contributing in eco-tourism design and community facilitation in Sepse village – the emerging model of eco-tourism
- Rumsram – Local NGO based in Biak. Rumsram is strong in local knowledge and networking with Customary Community Groups. They are involved more on conflict resolution, mapping the customary rights and community forests institutional capacity building.
- Papua State University (UNIPA) – Involved more at provincial technical forestry capacity building. UNIPA has helped KPH in Biak on full forest inventory, developed long term forests management and assessment plan, low emission development strategy and the non-timber forests products inventory in Eastern Biak.
The establishment of Eco-Tourism Management Body in Sebse – Village of Eastern Biak, Papua Province of Indonesia has shown how FMU in Biak gradually developed a good path on creating partnership scheme with customary community whose claim the rights over land, forests and resource inside the FMU designated areas. Founding of partnership scheme is an effort to acknowledging the specific Papua natural resources management problem in the appropriately positioning community rights in the official natural resources governance.

Making forests benefit to people and government within good governance are the main objective of the FMU Biak establishment. “Through KPH, I have vision to turn the current public paradigm that forests governance in Indonesia are far from good because it full of conflict, not sustainable, lack of community participation and lack of contribution to local economic development.” said Mr. Aristoteles Ap – the Head of Forests Management Unit (KPH) Biak Numfor on his welcoming words to the NORAD and Samdhana team visited KPH on January 2016. Holding the responsibilities to manage 206,016 ha of forests in Biak and Numfor Island he acknowledged that community are the main actors since customary right claim are strong in the islands.

Eco-Tourism management body in Sebse assisting by FMU and MNUKWAR (local Ngo based in Manokwari) will working on technical, social, business and legal components on managing the potency in the east cost of the Biak Island.

From the full forests inventory that the FMU and Papua State University did in 2015, it’s found that this region is the home of 18 species of birds - 3 which are the endemic paradise bird, 114 species of plants from 43 ordos, 10 different orchids and 8 mammals. The forest has also preserve the water flow and in harmony with karst stone creates beautiful lake “opsnondi” that has high value for eco-tourism. Community and government on the inauguration of body are welcoming this initiative and commits to move forward with concrete social-business concept of eco-tourism development.

Sharpening the partnership concept of legal management of eco-tourism within FMU has been putting as the priority intervention. Testing effective institutional development and professional community based business development that enable the creation of good benefit sharing mechanism are another big output that the supports in Sebse targeted by Biak FMU and MNUKWAR. Andi Saragih, the Director of MNUKWAR realized that this is just the beginning and there are a lot of challenges are waiting to be dealing to achieve what been built. Making sure that the communities are actively engage and lead the managerial activities until control and running the business are the attention that MNUKWAR is putting. Because he acknowledges that the pure partnership concepts of forests development partnership will working then the community are ready to engage and lead the process. But he believes that FMU and the community in Sebse has on track to get it.
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