

## LOCAL WISDOM VALUES FOR MANAGING THE CONSERVATION FOREST AREA IN MOUNTAIN KABA SELUPU REJANG SUB-DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT:** This study aims to determine the local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba Selupu Rejang Sub-District. This research is classified as a descriptive study with a qualitative approach. The selection of informants is based on snowball throwing techniques. Informants in this study consisted of village heads, traditional leaders, and supporting community members. Data collection is done through observation, documentation, and interviews with several speakers. The data analysis technique used is the analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). The results showed that the local wisdom of the community could improve the management of the mountain Kaba conservation area, which was divided into strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the values of that local wisdom.

*Keywords: Local Wisdom, Community, Forest*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Forest as a natural resource is an asset for an area. The existence of forests as a life support system provides great benefits for the survival of ecosystems on earth. In addition, forests have an ecological role as environmental agents. Article 33 Paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution as a constitutional basis which requires that the earth, water and natural resources contained there in be controlled by the state and used for the interests of the people, so that the implementation of forestry always contains the soul and the spirit of democracy, justice and sustainability.

Forest as an ecosystem does not only store natural resources in the form of wood, but there are still many non-timber potentials that can be benefited by the community through the cultivation of agricultural crops on forest land. As an ecosystem, forests play a variety of roles things like water supply providers, oxygen producers, places to live for millions of flora and fauna, and the role of environmental balancer, and prevent global warming. As a function of providing water for forest life is one of the most important areas, this is because the forest is a place where various plants grow.

Forests are also agreed to be the savior of the world's ecology which is increasingly degraded. Decreasing biodiversity is one of the impacts of the loss of carrying capacity of forests on human life [1]. According to [2] in Indonesia there are 3 functions of forests, namely production forests, protected forests, and conservation forests. Among

these three forests, conservation forests are forests that are protected by the government, these conservation forests are strictly non-exploitable and their authenticity must be preserved, these conservation forests can be form of national parks, nature reserves, wildlife reserves and others [3]. The conservation forest is an area that is more directed to the protection and preservation of ecosystems along with the flora and fauna life that is in it. Thus, this conservation forest becomes an important thing that must be protected so that its sustainability is maintained.

One example of areas in Indonesia that is included in the conservation forest area is mountain Kaba or commonly known as Bukit Kaba. Mountain Kaba is located in Sumber Urip Village, Selupu Rejang Sub-District, Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu. Mountain Kaba with the type of strato volcano has a height of 1952 meters above sea level which at the top there are eight craters. The Mountain Kaba area is also a tourist park based on the Decree of the Minister of Forestry No.3981 / Menhut-VII / KUH / 2014 designated as a nature conservation area intended for use as a nature tourism park with an area of 14,650.51 hectares.

Communities in Sumber Urip Village, especially those who live around the mountain Kaba conservation area are manage the forest with the local knowledge they have. Forest management is an effort to create sustainable forests based on management plans, forest utilization, forest rehabilitation, forest protection and conservation. In this case, the forest is preserved with existing rules so that the conservation area of the mountain Kaba

can be preserved and bequeathed to children and grandchildren in the future.

The preservation of the conservation forest area and the life of the surrounding community are two things that influence one another. Surrounding communities are usually very dependent on natural resources provided by the forest area. Active community involvement in managing the forests of conservation areas is needed for the protection of the forest ecosystem. One form of community management to the forest conservation area is to use certain norms, such as prevailing custom or cultural norms and has been applied for generations from one generation to the next, which is called local wisdom.

Local wisdom is formed because of the relationship between traditional communities and the surrounding ecosystems, which have traditional beliefs, laws and institutions, knowledge and how to manage natural resources locally. [4] in his research found that local communities have local wisdom that prioritizes the principle of forest balance and sustainability, which can encourage their citizens to engage voluntarily and collectively in preserving surrounding community forests.

According to Qandhi, local wisdom is a form of Indonesian cultural heritage. Local wisdom is formed as a process of interaction between humans and their environment in order to meet various needs [5]. As one form of human behavior, local wisdom is not a static thing but rather changes over time, depending on the order and social-cultural ties that exist in society. Meanwhile [6] asserts that local wisdom is all forms of knowledge, beliefs, understanding or insight as well as customs or ethics that guide human behavior in life in the ecological community. Understanding of local wisdom above emphasizes that local wisdom is an important capital in the management of natural resources and environmental preservation.

Customary and cultural norms in the form of local wisdom of the surrounding communities are very necessary for the preservation and sustainability of the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba, so that the harmonization of the community with nature can be maintained properly. Starting from the background and problems above, the writer is interested in researching the local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba Selupu Rejang Sub-District.

## 2. METHOD

This research is classified as a descriptive study with a qualitative approach that reveals the local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba. The selection of informants is based on snowball throwing techniques. Informants in this study consisted of

village heads, traditional leaders, and supporting community members. Data obtained through observation, documentation, and interviews were analyzed using the analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). SWOT analysis includes efforts to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that determine the performance of a system and are also based on logic that can maximize strengths and opportunities, but simultaneously minimize weaknesses and threats. The SWOT analysis in this study was used to analyze the management of mountain Kaba conservation area based on the local wisdom, including the potential and internal and external problems at the study site. Internal analysis in terms of strength and weaknesses, while external analysis in terms of opportunities and threats.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study was conducted in Selupu Rejang Sub-District, Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu. This research will produce an analysis of the local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba. Local wisdom in the Selupu Rejang Sub-District is the belief of the local community that the residents of Curup Hamlet are prohibited from climbing and passing the conservation forest area of the mountain Kaba to preserve it. It is believed that in the past, one of the residents of Curup Hamlet wanted to marry Putri Bukit Kaba, but she canceled the plan. Until now, the family of Putri Bukit Kaba still holds a grudge against the descendants of Curup Hamlet residents. To avoid undesirable things, Curup Hamlet residents are prohibited from climbing to the top of the mountain, including passing through the mountain Kaba conservation forest area.

### *Strengths (S)*

*Strengths* are situations or conditions related to strength that can have a positive influence on the present and in the future. The following are the strengths of the local wisdom values for managing mountain Kaba conservation forest area:

- a. Mountain Kaba conservation forest area was developed into a nature tourism park named Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba. Mountain Kaba as one of the active mountains in Bengkulu has a conservation forest area that has been developed into a natural tourism park known as the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba with an area of 14,650.51 hectares [7]. This area was designated as a nature tourism park through Minister of Forestry Decree No.3981/Menhut-VII/ KUH / 2014 dated May 23, 2014.
- b. Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is collected in Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS). TNKS is

- located extending from northwest to southeast in the middle of the Bukit Barisan Sumatra Mountains at coordinates  $100^{\circ} 31'18''$  E -  $102^{\circ} 44' 01''$  E and  $1^{\circ} 07' 13''$  S -  $1^{\circ} 26' 14''$  S. Administratively the TNKS area is at 14 Regencies and 2 Cities included in 4 Provinces [8], one of which is Bengkulu Province, which includes Rejang Lebong, North Bengkulu, Lebong, and Muko-muko Regencies. The TNKS area in mountain Kaba, Selupu Rejang Sub-District is a rehabilitation zone and a special area for recovery and functions as a water catchment area.
- c. Community support for the development and management of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba forest area. The development and management of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba cannot be separated from the support of the local community, if community support is minimal then the management and development of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba will not run well. Conversely, if the management and development of Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba can be done well, it will have an impact on improving the economy of the community around the area.
  - d. There is good cooperation between Bengkulu Province BKSDA and local community in forest management. Bengkulu Natural Resources Conservation Office (BKSDA) is a technical implementation unit of the Directorate General of Natural Resource Conservation The Ministry of Environment and Forestry, whose function is to manage national park conservation areas in Bengkulu Province. As an institution that manages and develops Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba its cooperation with local communities is enhanced. One form of cooperation that has been carried out is cooperation between Bengkulu BKSDA and Bumdes since May 2018.
  - e. There is a tourism awareness group (pokdarwis) participating in the management of Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba. In the development of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba management one form of local community participation is the formation of a tourism awareness group (pokdarwis) that has concern and responsibility and acts as a mobilizer to create sapta enchantment and a conducive atmosphere for tourists visiting Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba.

#### *Weaknesses (W)*

*Weaknesses* are situations or conditions related to weaknesses that can have a negative influence on the present and in the future. Following are the weaknesses of the local wisdom values for

managing conservation forest area in mountain Kaba:

- a. There is still poor accessibility in the form of sub-district roads in several locations leading to the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba forest. Black in [9] said that accessibility is a concept that combines a geographical land use regulation system with a transportation network system that connects it. In this case the accessibility to the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba still poor at some point in Sumber Urip Village.
- b. Sanctions given by village officials against forest destroyers are only in the form of reprimands. As a tourist area, Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is one of the attractive tourist destinations and visited by many tourists. Tourists as visitors who enjoy the beauty of TWA Bukit Kaba sometimes have bad behavior such as damaging the forest area, the actions of village officials only provide sanctions in the form of reprimands.
- c. Lack of written rules on the location of the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba. The mountain Kaba conservation area, or better known as Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba, is one of the beauties enjoyed by visiting tourists. But one of the weaknesses of Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is the lack of written rules that are displayed in this area, so that tourists who visit do not know the existing rules, such as the prohibition of not destroying forests, littering, and so forth.
- d. Tourism promotion is more prominent for volcanoes than protected forests (Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba). Sumber Urip Village is inseparable from the charm of the volcano and Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba as a mainstay tourist destination. In this case, tourism promotion is needed in order to attract the number of tourists who visit. However, in its development, the promotion carried out by the public and government agencies towards tourist destinations is more towards volcanoes than Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba.

#### *Opportunities (O)*

*Opportunities* are situations or conditions related to opportunities that can provide opportunities for future development. The following opportunities of local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba:

- a. Mountain Kaba conservation forest area is preserved. The development and management of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba forest is inseparable from the cooperation of the community and related government agencies. If the management and development of Taman

- Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba goes well, the sustainability of the forest will be maintained. The preservation of the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is expected to be sustainable so that in the future this forest will remain and be enjoyed by future generations.
- b. The birth of a community that is aware of the rules in managing the mountain Kaba conservation forest area. Good collaboration between the community and the local government in managing the mountain Kaba conservation area will result in a good habit. In this case, the community and tourists will get used to protecting the forest so that they are aware of the rules, both written and unwritten for the preservation and sustainability of the mountain Kaba conservation forest area.
  - c. An increase in cooperation with various parties related to the management of Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba. Collaboration between various parties in managing Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba has been seen and the impact can be felt in various ways. One example is the agreement conservation partnership involving the community in forest management between the Bengkulu Province BKSDA and the Rejang Lebong Regency Government.
  - d. The creation of a tourist attraction Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba. A tourist destination certainly has its own attraction that can attract tourists to visit the destination. One of the attractions that can be an opportunity at Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is one of the natural tourist destinations based on volcanic phenomena and the life of wild plants and animals.
  - e. Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba as a source of regional income. The number of tourists visiting Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba will certainly add to the regional income of Sumber Urip Village, Selupu Rejang Sub-District which can later be used for various things in the implementation of sustainable village development.

#### Threats (T)

*Threats* are situations or conditions related to threats that may be faced and can hamper future development. Following are threats to the local wisdom values for managing the conservation forest area in mountain Kaba:

- a. Tourists who do not know the rules in the management of the mountain Kaba conservation forest area. The number of tourists visiting the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba destination will affect the sustainability of the mountain Kaba conservation forest area. Tourists who do not know the rules in forest

- management will produce conservation areas which is not sustainable, on the contrary tourists who know the rules in forest management will produce a sustainable conservation area.
- b. Some locations are prone to natural disasters. Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba forest area is inseparable from the activities of Kaba Volcano, meaning that there are several points that will be prone to natural disasters in the form of areas affected if an eruption of mountain Kaba occurs. Besides that, danger of landslides and drought can also lurk the mountain Kaba conservation forest area if no longer sustainable.
- c. The occurrence of Climate change. Climate change is a long-term change in the distribution of weather patterns statistically. In general, forests have an impact on climate change. Mountain Kaba conservation forest area if it is no longer sustainable will affect climatic conditions of the area. On the other hand, protection and expansion of forests aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent the adverse effects of global warming.
- d. The behavior of tourist who do not maintain forest sustainability. Forest damage and sustainability is also inseparable from the behavior of tourists visiting Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba. Tourist knowledge, including awareness in protecting the environment will affect the preservation of the mountain Kaba conservation forest area. For the example, tourists who climb to mountain Kaba bring back their trash when going down the mountain, and tourists do not damage the natural resources they encounter in the mountain Kaba conservation forest area.

Table 1. Formulation of Policies in The Management of Mountain Kaba Conservation Forest Area

<b>Forest Management Policy</b>
1. The local government in collaboration with the Bengkulu Provincial Government should renovate the road as access to the Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba
2. Sanctions for forest destroyers are further clarified into written rules that can be understood by everyone, not only locals but also tourists who pass Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba
3. Promotion of tourism is further enhanced for the birth of a leading tourist destination Bengkulu Province which will also increase regional income
4. Increasing cooperation with various parties related to the management of mountain Kaba conservation forest area
5. Pokdarwis (tourism-awareness groups) should provide a little guidance on forest management and the environment for tourists who will hike and cross the forests of the mountain Kaba conservation forest area

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Internal factors that become strengths: (1) forests are developed into Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba, (2) Taman Wisata Alam Bukit Kaba is collected in the TNKS area, (3) community support for forest development and management, (4) there is good cooperation between BKSDA and local communities, and (5) there is a tourism awareness group. Internal factors that become weaknesses: (1) accessibility in the form of roads in some locations is still poor, (2) sanctions are only in the form of reprimand, (3) lack of written rules on protected forest locations, and (4) promotion of tourism that is more prominent for volcanoes than protected forests. External factors that provide opportunities: (1) the creation of sustainable forests, (2) the birth of a community aware of the rules, (3) increased cooperation with various parties, (4) the emergence of diverse tourist attractions, and (5) as a source regional income. External factors that pose a threat: (1) tourists lack knowledge of forest management rules, (2) some locations prone to natural disasters, (3) climate change occurs, and (4) tourist behavior that does not maintain forest sustainability.

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