

THE ROLE OF ACTOR NETWORKS IN REFORESTATION POLICY IN INDONESIA

Rizky Ilhami
Universitas Pasundan

Keywords

Actor Network, Policy,
Reforestation, Government,
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Abstract. Various approaches have been taken to explain the reforestation phenomenon that is occurring. The actor network dynamics perspective is a useful approach for mapping the power of actors who are networked in different spaces of power, in order to strengthen reforestation and even forest and environmental management at large. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that the role of actor networks in reforestation policy in Indonesia is very crucial. Coordination between the central government, regional governments and various related parties is fundamental in aligning policies with local conditions. In addition, providing adequate resources, such as funding, technology and workforce, as well as regular monitoring and evaluation, helps ensure the smooth implementation of reforestation programs. Thus, collaboration between various actors is expected to make a significant contribution to efforts to preserve the environment and improve the welfare of society in Indonesia.

Email : rizky.ilhami@unpas.ac.id

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1. INTRODUCTION

Reforestation is an essential effort that aims to restore and increase the carrying capacity of land outside Forest Areas in order to restore the important functions of land that has been disturbed due to human activities. Through reforestation, various types of vegetation are planted which can reduce soil erosion, increase soil fertility and improve water quality (Nawir, 2008). Apart from that, reforestation is also able to create a healthier environment, provide shelter for a variety of biodiversity, and strengthen the ecological resilience of local communities. Reforestation is not only an important solution in mitigating climate change and environmental sustainability, but also a vital strategy in creating sustainable ecosystems outside the Ginoga Forest Area & (Djaenudin, 2007).

Reforestation is implemented through various approaches, including through the development of Private Forests which provide management rights to local communities to manage and utilize forest resources sustainably (Puspaningsih et al, 2010). Apart from that, reforestation is also carried out through environmental reforestation efforts which include planting trees and vegetation in various degraded areas, such as critical land, river banks, and areas that are vulnerable to natural disasters (Huda, 2008). The Urban Forest development approach is also an important part of Reforestation, where the development of green space in urban areas aims to improve air quality, provide coolness, and improve the living environment for urban residents (Rijal, 2008).

In reforestation efforts, the use of seeds originating from various sources is an important key in ensuring successful planting and vegetation growth. People's nurseries are an important source that involves community participation in producing plant seeds that suit local needs and local environmental conditions (Fatimatuzzahroh et al, 2021). Meanwhile, permanent nurseries are an important means of mass seed production which is carried out with careful supervision and techniques to ensure the quality of the seeds produced. The use of productive seeds that can provide economic benefits for the community is also an important aspect of reforestation, where the use of productive plant species can have a positive impact in terms of improving the welfare of local communities through the economic use of plant products (Octavia et al, 2020).

Provisions and guidelines related to reforestation activities in Indonesia are regulated through two main regulations, namely Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation Number 26 of 2020 concerning Forest Rehabilitation and Reclamation which aims to provide a comprehensive legal basis for maintaining and restoring the function of forests and their ecosystems (Talumepa, 2020). In addition, the Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia

Number P.105/Menlhk/Setjen/Kum.1/12/2018 stipulates procedures for implementing, supporting activities, providing incentives, as well as coaching and controlling forest and land rehabilitation activities, which aim to provide clear guidelines for implementing reforestation activities effectively and sustainably (Dirga & Lestari, 2023). Through this comprehensive regulatory framework, it is hoped that reforestation can be implemented by applying the best standards in environmental management, forest conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems, in order to support the government's efforts to achieve environmental sustainability targets and climate change mitigation.

Reforestation is an important aspect in efforts to preserve the environment and mitigate climate change. In Indonesia, along with rapid economic growth and urbanization, there has been a significant increase in environmental damage and loss of green land (Kartodihardjo, 2006). To overcome this problem, the Indonesian government has established various reforestation policies which aim to maintain the sustainability of natural ecosystems, maintain ecological balance, and improve the quality of life of the community (Daryono, 2009).

In implementing Reforestation policies, the role of actor networks or networks of various parties involved, including government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local communities and other related actors, has a significant contribution. This actor network often plays an important role in the process of policy formulation, program implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of established Reforestation policies.

Therefore, this research aims to explore and analyze the important role played by actor networks in implementing Reforestation policies in Indonesia. By understanding the important role and working dynamics of actor networks, it is hoped that this research can provide in-depth insights and sustainable solutions to increase the effectiveness of Reforestation policies in Indonesia, as well as make an important contribution in the global context for environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.

2. METHOD

In accordance with the research title above, this research uses a qualitative approach, while the research method used is the descriptive method. The use of descriptive methods is based on the consideration that descriptive methods are used to describe a condition/symptom, system, current event based on available data and information (Sugiyono, 2011). Data collection was carried out using interviews, observation and documentation, while data analysis was carried out using the Miles and Huberman model.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Decentralization has become the main strategy in distributing power and authority from the central government to regional governments, with the aim of providing greater autonomy for regions in managing natural resources effectively. In the context of forest and natural resource management, decentralization provides an opportunity for local governments to play an active role in decision making regarding the use and protection of natural resources in their territory. This allows the creation of policies that are more responsive to local needs, environmental conditions and the aspirations of local communities, thereby enabling the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner and in favor of local community interests (Ekawati, 2013).

However, in the context of its implementation, decentralization also raises various challenges and complexities that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is related to the capacity of local governments to manage and monitor forest and natural resource management effectively, considering that the transfer of authority is often not accompanied by an increase in capacity and adequate resources. In addition, there is a risk of disparities between regions in managing natural resources, which could result in disparities in the use of natural resources and potentially trigger inter-regional conflicts. Therefore, it is important to strengthen coordination mechanisms between central and regional governments, increase management capacity, and ensure that there is a clear and orderly regulatory framework in order to optimize the benefits of decentralization in forest and natural

resource management, while minimizing risks that may arise as a result of implementation. decentralization (Gunarso et al, 2009).

With the enactment of Republic of Indonesia Law No. 32 of 2004 and No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Autonomy, new opportunities have opened up for local communities to be able to manage their forests or customary lands, including reforestation of deforested forests more independently and with dignity. . The hope of achieving this independence, especially in terms of forest and natural resource management, requires the existence of policies that suit the needs and characteristics of each location, considering the diversity of social, economic and environmental conditions in various regions in Indonesia. However, in the policy formulation process, various challenges arise, especially related to complex bureaucratic procedures and the large amount of time and resources required. This process often slows down the decision-making process and implementation of policies that can adapt to local dynamics, thereby creating obstacles in achieving the goal of true regional autonomy (Wiliam et al., 2005).

The existence of policies derived from regional autonomy laws, such as Government Regulation (PP) Number 23 of 2021 concerning Forestry Implementation, including reforestation (Reforestation), is expected to be able to provide clear and firm direction in the management of forests and natural resources at the regional level. . However, the development of these derivative policies often faces obstacles in adapting them to the specific needs of each region, as well as in increasing community participation in the formulation process. Therefore, more active efforts are needed to accelerate the process of formulating responsive and participatory policies, as well as strengthening coordination between central and regional governments to ensure the implementation of regional autonomy policies that are effective, inclusive and sustainable.

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Forest issues and their management in Indonesia are becoming increasingly complex due to disharmony between existing regulations. On the one hand, there is Law Number 41 of 1999 which stipulates that forests are state property which can be utilized optimally for the benefit of the people's prosperity. This view places the role of the state as the main regulator in the management and utilization of state forest areas. On the other hand, indigenous communities also have traditional rules and practices related to forest and natural resource management that need to be accommodated in state policy. These differences in views often create uncertainty and conflict regarding forest ownership and management, as well as providing opportunities for certain parties to take advantage of the situation for personal or group interests.

In this context, it is important to bridge the gap between state regulations and the needs of indigenous communities in forest management. There needs to be an inclusive and participatory approach that allows the integration of local values and local wisdom within the existing national legal framework. Apart from that, it is also necessary to improve communication and dialogue between the government and indigenous communities to ensure that the policies taken can meet mutual interests and are in line with the principles of environmental sustainability and the protection of the rights of indigenous communities. In this way, it is hoped that better harmony can be created between the interests of the state and society in sustainable and fair forest management.

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The state has been deemed unable to properly guarantee the fulfillment of citizens' needs in various aspects. Starting from this understanding, many civil society institutions or organizations have emerged that carry the agenda of community empowerment and environmental preservation and are a balancing and corrective force for the state. The various ideological backgrounds inherent in each institution then influence the concentration of power or synergy in unifying the rhythm of their movements. The various interests promoted by each actor in the civil society space even have an impact on forest management and community empowerment (Hardiansyah, 2013).

Fragmentation and lack of coordination between various movements and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Indonesia in the context of forest and environmental resource management have become serious obstacles in achieving positive and sustainable impacts. To overcome this problem, CSOs feel the need to build synergy between each other through the formation of cooperation forums between CSOs or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Nevertheless, the

challenges faced remain significant, as there are still obstacles in uniting forces and increasing synergy within civil society to achieve a shared vision regarding empowerment and sustainable management of forest resources and the environment. Apart from that, there appears to be an overlap between the civil society space and the indigenous community space, each of which tends to have a different scope of interests, which could cause an imbalance in the relationship between the two parties if it is not elaborated properly (Kusumedi & HB, 2010).

It is important to encourage the creation of balance and better coordination between civil society and indigenous communities in efforts to manage forest and environmental resources. There is a need for more intensive dialogue and cooperation to ensure that the interests and values of indigenous peoples are respected and integrated within the broader civil society framework. Apart from that, increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of inclusive and collaborative cooperation between various actors is also an important key in achieving sustainable and fair agreements in efforts to preserve forests and the environment. In this way, it is hoped that a harmonious and cooperative framework can be created between various actors in order to achieve common goals for environmental sustainability and protection of the interests of indigenous communities (Tien Wahyuni et al, 2019).

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In facing these various challenges, we are aware of the importance of structuring a governance system that is able to provide balanced and proportional opportunities for all parties involved in the relationship between various actors. In this context, it is important to carry out a comprehensive mapping of the relationships between actors that form networks within civil society and indigenous communities, in order to understand the dynamics and interrelated interests between them. Through this careful mapping, the right approach can be determined in building participatory institutions that are able to accommodate the interests and needs of all existing actors, by ensuring fair and equitable involvement in decision making related to forest and environmental resource management. In this way, it is hoped that an inclusive, sustainable and fair governance framework will be created, which is able to integrate the interests of various actors in order to achieve common goals for environmental preservation and community welfare (Arisaputra, 2013).

In the complex dynamics of natural resource management, the actors involved are generally grouped into three main areas, namely "state", "civil society" and "private sector". Relationships between various actors can take various forms, ranging from harmonious cooperation to complex conflicts. To maintain balance and sustainability of relations between actors, it is necessary to develop effective conflict resolution schemes and a fair balance of power between them. Meanwhile, the relationship between each actor in the realm of natural resource management is often determined by the political ideology, views of power, and economic orientation held by each actor. By understanding these factors, it is hoped that a framework can be created that allows for balanced and sustainable cooperation between the actors involved, as well as minimizing the potential for conflict that could hamper joint efforts for sustainable natural resource management (Budiningsih et al, 2015).

In the context of natural resource management, the state often acts as a regulator that exercises its powers based on the principle of centralism, either through a system of deconcentration or decentralization. On the other hand, civil society, which had a strong existence before the founding of a country, has local authority and influence in the ownership of natural resources. This civil society is organized through customary or informal institutions, but increasingly faces challenges from acculturation from external influences. In addition, the private sector is considered the main partner in natural resource management, involved in forest utilization which makes a significant contribution to state revenues for development. However, this use also often has an impact on the marginalization of civil society or indigenous communities in the region. In this context, the role of actor networks is important in formulating reforestation policies in Indonesia, taking into account the interests and ecological sustainability and welfare of local communities. The role of actor networks in reforestation policy in Indonesia includes:

1. Coordination between central and regional governments and various related parties.

Coordination between central and regional governments and various related parties is one of the important roles of actor networks in reforestation policy in Indonesia. Through careful coordination, the actor network ensures that reforestation policies formulated by the central government can be adapted to existing conditions and needs at the local level. This is important considering that each region in Indonesia has different characteristics and challenges in terms of natural resource management. This coordination also helps in aligning the various interests of the government, local communities and the private sector, so that the resulting policies can support environmental preservation, community welfare and overall sustainable development. By creating effective coordination between various related parties, it is hoped that reforestation policies can be implemented more precisely on target and provide maximum benefits for various aspects of people's lives and the environment in Indonesia

2. Provision of necessary resources, including funding, technology, and workforce.

The role of providing the necessary resources in reforestation policies in Indonesia is important in ensuring the smooth implementation of these programs in various regions. Actor networks play a role in facilitating the necessary funding, either through government budget allocations or through collaboration with financial institutions or international institutions. Apart from that, the actor network also helps in providing the technology and knowledge needed to implement reforestation, such as planting techniques that are appropriate to local environmental conditions, selecting the right types of plants, and monitoring the growth and health of planted forests. Apart from that, actor networks also play a role in ensuring the availability of skilled and trained labor to carry out reforestation activities effectively. With the role of providing strong resources from actor networks, it is hoped that reforestation policies can be implemented well and be able to provide a significant positive impact in efforts to preserve the environment and develop the economy of communities in Indonesia.

3. Regular monitoring and evaluation of reforestation implementation.

Monitoring and evaluation carried out regularly by a network of actors on the implementation of reforestation policies in Indonesia plays a crucial role in assessing the success and effectiveness of the program. Through careful monitoring, actor networks can identify challenges and obstacles that may arise during the implementation of reforestation policies, such as climate change, pest attacks, or social conflicts. The evaluation carried out also makes it possible to evaluate whether the reforestation program has had the expected positive impact, both in terms of environmental conservation, improving the welfare of local communities, and in achieving overall sustainable development goals. With continuous monitoring and evaluation, the actor network can formulate necessary improvement strategies and adopt timely corrective actions, so that reforestation policies can continue to be improved and adapted to dynamic conditions on the ground. Thus, it is hoped that through the strong monitoring and evaluation role of actor networks, reforestation policies can provide significant long-term benefits for environmental preservation and community welfare in Indonesia.

By carrying out these roles, the actor network is expected to be able to ensure that reforestation policies can be implemented effectively, sustainably, and have a positive impact on environmental preservation and improving the welfare of society in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the presentation regarding the role of actor networks in reforestation policy in Indonesia is the importance of the role of coordination between the central, regional and various related parties in formulating policies that can be adapted to local conditions and needs. Meanwhile, providing adequate resources and continuous monitoring and evaluation are the main keys in ensuring the smooth and successful implementation of the reforestation program. The actor network, through its role in coordination, resource provision, and monitoring and evaluation, is expected to be able to realize effective, sustainable and inclusive reforestation policies, so that it can provide a significant positive impact on environmental conservation and community welfare in Indonesia. With good synergy between various related parties, it is hoped that reforestation efforts can become an integral part of a sustainable development strategy that focuses on ecological sustainability and social welfare in Indonesia.

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