Recentralizing in Indonesia's forestry sector: Is province goverment ready to manage the forest? Case studies in Lampung Province, Indonesia

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Background

Through several presidential period, the system of forest management in Indonesia changed from a centralized system to a decentralized system. Centralized systems was began in the 60s. Furthermore, a centralized system turned into a decentralized system since 1999 after political reform occured in Indonesia. Various changes occured in decentralized systems including forest management in Indonesia. The existence of several problems related to the decentralized system causes the central government to withdraw the district's authority of forest management to the provincial and central governments. The system changes will certainly give effect to the district and provincial governments.

Objectives

This paper was made as initial research associated to changes of the district's decentralized system to provincial's and central government's centralized on forestry sector.

Results

The conventional concept of decentralization in western public administration has been intergovernmental or political decentralization the transfer of powers and responsibilities to elected local governments, which exercise a signicant measure of local autonomy (Devas 1997; Ribot 2002). Forest management by unit management (KPH) in Indonesia, particularly in outside of Java island was began after the era of decentralization. KPH formation is a mandate of the Act 41 of 1999 on Forestry to consider the characteristics of the land, forest type, forest function, watershed conditions, socio-cultural, economic, institutional, local communities, including indigenous people and administrative boundaries of district and province government (Kusumedi 2010).

Forest Management Units (KPH) in Lampung Province were established by Decree of the Minister of Forestry in 2010 number: SK.68 / MENHUT-II / 2010 consist of 16 KPH (KPH Unit I - Unit XVI) : 9 KPH Production and 6 KPH Protection (Figure 1 and Figure 2). In 2011, based on the Ministry of Forestry Decree number: SK.367 /MENHUT-II/ 2011, 1 KPH was formed, KPH Mountain Protection Rajabasa which was formerly part of the KPH Production Unit XIV. Many things are perceived as weakness of decentralized system of forest management, central government led to the emergence of recentralisation policies set forth in Indonesian Law No. 23/2014 on Local Government, then KPH become increasingly important role in terms of forest management.

In this regard, there are several things that must be considered in recentralisation.

 There are some districts that refuse to provide their employees to be drawn into the KPH employees who are employees of the province, such as: West Lampung and South Lampung district.



Figure 1. Map of partly of KPH in Lampung Province (source: SK.68/MENHUT-II/2010).



Figure 2. Map of partly of KPH in Lampung Province (source: SK.68/MENHUT-II/2010).

Material

The material used to retrieve the primary data are a list of questions/ questionnaire and a camera to take photos of field conditions.

Method

Methods of data collection was done by interview using a list of questions that came from the respondents / sample, respectively 2 staff of each of 3 KPH Model on the provincial-level and 1 KPH Model on district level. In addition, one respondent also taken from Lampung Province Forestry Officer and each board of forest farmer groups located in each KPH Model. Other primary data in the form of field conditions were taken by observation at 4 locations. Secondary data were collected by literatur study.

Results

- 2. Some state forests areas (KPH areas) are laid in some areas of the district administration. Local policies issued by the district government and the differences in implementation of national policies related to forest management will affect the behavior of the district communities in forest management then will ultimately affect managed forest conditions, such as: the area of KPH Protection Batu Tegi and KPH Production Gedong Wani.
- 3. The absence of the right of state forest management by the district government can lead to the emergence of a possibility for the conversion of forest areas into non-forestarea. One of things that indicate it is emergence of the definitive villages in the state forest area (Figure 3).
- 4. Most communities living in villages laid in and around the forest area are the tenants of state forest land. They are residents of the district that are usually subject to district government rules (Figure 4). Some communities even want to convert the state forest land to their land (Figure 5 and Figure 6). Therefore the Lampung provincial government should be able to coordinate with the district government to support forest management by the KPH.



Figure 3. Amenities road and electricity network built by the government of South Lampung district.



Figure 4. Meeting between the tenants to discuss state forest management



Figure 5. Paddy field of a tenant in state forest.area



Figure 6. A house and yard of a tenant in state forest area.

Conclusions

Various problems that arise as mentioned above, led to a suspicion that the provincial government is not ready to manage the state forest forests

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