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SGP The GEF
 Small Grants
 Programme



Community's Contribution to Develop Sustainable Future

EXPERIENCES IN MANAGING
SMALL GRANTS FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT

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Editor's Note

The book is a piece of the big mosaic of knowledge management developed by GEF SGP Indonesia to support local initiatives for global environmental change.

The author are indebted to the support of GEF SGP Indonesia's National Steering Committee, the hard work of all the National Secretariat's members, in particular the direction and guidance of the National Coordinator, A. M. Mahaningtyas, and input from former Program Assistants Ery Damayanti and W. Y. Daryusya.

Other pieces of the mosaic have been laid by partners - NGOs and civil society groups - in problem identification and program monitoring and evaluation. The book draws on the results of the intensive research into partners' inputs, which was coordinated by Ida Ronauli and Tedjo Wahyu, who also helped design the analytical framework, as well as input from so many GEF SGP Indonesia's partners that this publication cannot mention one by one.

A network of thinkers and further cooperation is needed to extend the picture of knowledge contained in this book. Any contribution - suggestions, lessons, ideas, and even dreams - sent to the editors and the Secretariat by individuals concerned about environmental conservation will clearly show that the movement does exist. The most important thing is that civil society's contribution has become clearer, demonstrating that a massive power is hidden there, and that the future of the environment and life lies in people's hands.

Editor

Harjanto Suwarno
Bogor, August 2006

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Foreword

Communities across the developing world are at the frontlines of global efforts to protect the environment. They are often the most vulnerable to the impact of environmental degradation and global warming. But they also play a leading role in finding local solutions to managing natural resources in a more sustainable manner. This is the core premise of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). To date, this programme has supported over 8,000 projects in over 100 countries supporting community action to protect biodiversity, reverse land degradation, and promote the use of renewable energy.

In Indonesia, the GEF Small Grants Programme has since 1994 disbursed USD 3.6 million through 221 community projects across the country. Communities have successfully raised co-financing to scale up their activities and many have pioneered innovative approaches to environmental conservation. This community-generated knowledge is now filtering up to policy makers helping to strengthen national efforts to

promote sustainable development.

UNDP is proud to present this compilation of notes and reflections from communities, practitioners and scholars who have been actively involved in the GEF Small Grants Programme over the past decade here in Indonesia. This collection of experiences and knowledge will help policy makers and development workers understand better the realities on the ground and the power of community action. It will also serve as a source of inspiration for other communities who want to join the global movement to save the environment.

Jakarta, 5 June 2007



Bo Asplund

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Indonesia

Member of National Steering Committee of the GEF Small Grants Programme

Solving Global Environmental Problems with Small Grants Fund?

Throughout my ten years of work in small grants funds management, for both bilateral and multilateral development programs, I have found out that in a lot of discussions participants are busy thinking over and formulating answers to fundamental questions such as, "To what extent do small grants programs generate impacts on the environment and the quality of people's lives?", "How do we measure a project's successes and failures?", "What is the proportion of the successes and the failures?", "What evidence do we have for their impacts and benefits?". Guidance in delivery methods have been developed in such a way that they can be carried out by the targeted people and their facilitating NGOs. How to ensure project's success and at the same time reduce the risk of mismanagement are anticipated through participatory planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Anecdotes, videos, photos taken before, during and after the activities as well as basic statistics are presented to demonstrate that the project and the program have

indeed been implemented in accordance with the funding conditions. While these are quite impressive and advocated by many, scientists and donors keep questioning the accuracy of the measuring methods and the indicators used to measure the impacts.

Further questions to be addressed are: who should determine if the planned impacts have been achieved? Who will enjoy and 'pay' the social and ecological costs of changes in attitudes that are in accordance with environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation? What enabling factors are needed so that small grants programs can achieve their goals? This introduction aims to introduce experiences and lessons learnt from activities supported by GEF SGP through its facilitation of funding since 1992. It serves as an effort to document evolving knowledge in a more honest way and by no means represents a concluding statement or a set recipe for successful small grants program management. It is hoped that this book can enrich insights, debates and discourse

about the role of small grants in encouraging change in social and environmental behaviors.

Due to many reasons, only a few impressions and reflections of the experiences of the at least 170 partners can be compiled. Many organizations have been closed or have moved without notification of their new location. Project failures have often not been documented well. People have been unable to provide inputs as they have not been engaged in a given program from the beginning to the end, so that they know little about the overall activities and the kinds of support. Weak knowledge management systems have led to poor storage of data and information. GEF SGP Indonesia itself, from the beginning to the end of the second operational program (1992-2003), had no formal policies on conducting post-project studies.

In 2004, GEF SGP Indonesia conducted an ex-post study – a reflection study on the sites and communities previously supported by GEF SGP. Four sites were chosen to obtain a picture of both the positive and the negative impacts. A series of measuring questions was designed, and a broad range of academics and experts in community development, anthropology, the environment and development cooperation were approached to provide answers to these questions. The study revealed that a mangrove project failed in North Sumatra due to misuse of authority and funds, but succeeded in another area not supported by GEF SGP. An agro-biodiversity management project failed leaving not a single tree on the site, and not a single individual in East Kalimantan even remembered the project. Projects supporting micro-hydro were considered successful due to the leadership that benefited the community in West Java. An environment-based regional planning process in Bintuni failed to deliver its goals but opened the way to broader district planning. Do all the results of the studies reflect improvement to the respective region's quality and environment? Who can decide on the advantages and disadvantages of the projects?

In 2005, GEF SGP started to apply national and global program indicators accompanied by a series of more measurable key achievements. Not only does GEF SGP carry its environmental sustainability mandate as part of the international community's contribution, but it also carries the UN's mandate to ensure that by 2010 poverty should be reduced to 50% globally. Measurements of

project impacts and national programs are aligned to ensure that all the supported projects should embrace the elements of democracy participation, innovation, clean energy use, improved people's economy based on sustainable natural resource management, improved gender equality and justice, and improved marginal people's access to decision-making process related to integrated ecosystem management. Many universal goals and values can be added to the list. All must be achieved at the minimum expense possible as the funding is relatively small. Simply put, it must be cost-efficient and time-efficient (i.e. achieving the goals in the shortest possible time). People's direct contribution as a symbol of ownership and respect for local knowledge becomes one of the prerequisites and risk-reducing tools. Does it therefore follow that the objectives and the risk-reducing measures can be used to generate sustainable, influential, effective and replicable projects? Can GEF SGP's program be said to be a success or a failure?

From the supported proposals and projects, the Secretariat Team with the support of the National Steering Committee and voluntary experts and networks, made pro-active efforts to approach innovative initiatives, helped develop activities through participatory planning, and encouraged on-time and purpose-driven implementation of strategic projects. Without voluntary principles and networking, the program would not demonstrate uniqueness and differences in responsive small grants management with proportional operational costs below 25% of the annual grant funding, which can in total reach US\$600,000.

Problem-solving efforts and breakthroughs, which should be continuously made, include reconciling the gaps: between local and global environmental problem understanding; in power relationships between funding institutions and grantees; between hopes and reality; and between international funding institutions' priorities and people's hopes for improved lives and environmental quality

Avi Mahaningtyas
National Coordinator
GEF SGP Indonesia

GEF SGP Indonesia through the Years

The Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Program (GEF/SGP) is a multilateral program launched during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The main aim of the programme is to support community-based initiatives that help improve the global environment through local actions implementing the UN conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. Yayasan Bina Usaha Lingkungan has served as the national host institution since 1996 in collaboration with the UNDP CO, the Ministry of Environment and the GEF National Focal Point.

GEF SGP Indonesia is managed by a National Coordinator that executes the strategic direction set by a National Steering Committee consisting of members from civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, government, the private sector and researchers. Each of the NSC members has professional expertise that they contributed voluntarily to the programme. GEF SGP Indonesia has provided support to grassroots movements in conservation of biodiversity, mitigating the impacts of climate change, halting land degradation

and reducing pollution of international waters. GEF SGP Indonesia has integrated the Millennium Development Goals into its project conceptualization and implementation to better assist community efforts in sustainable management of critical ecosystems.

GEF SGP Indonesia started with a Pilot Phase (October 1992 - June 1996), followed by Operational Phase 1 (July 1996 - December 1998), OP 2 (January 1999 - February 2004). It is currently closing its OP 3 (2004-2007). GEF SGP Indonesia has disbursed more than 3.6 million USD to 221 community-based projects across Indonesia. The programme mobilized 2.8 million USD in co-financing through community contributions and partnership with other donors. Small grants range from 2,000 -

50,000 USD with support lasting from 2 to 24 months and grants averaging 25,000 USD per project. The programme places a high priority on establishing direct partnerships with community-based organizations and their supporting non-government organizations. Community contribution and ownership is translated through 1:1 co-financing in cash and in kind. In most cases the community's contribution exceeded the amount of the grant.

During the implementation of OP 3, the National Steering Committee endorsed a shift toward improvement of GEF SGP Indonesia's services to reach out to indigenous

peoples, women and other vulnerable groups struggling to exercise access to and control over natural resources essential to their survival. The programme prioritizes Sumatra and small islands as its geographical and thematic issues in restoring critical ecosystems. In 2004, GEF SGP Indonesia pioneered the use of video proposals to reach out to isolated communities and establish base line data. This has enabled a number of isolated and vulnerable communi-

ties to participate in the Programme while respecting their own ways of life and use of knowledge and local language. With assistance from the South South Grants Facility and Ford Foundation, the Programme responded to community requests for help in rebuilding their lives by applying environmentally friendly reconstruction and rehabilitation approaches in Aceh and Yogyakarta following the December 2004 tsunami and the May 2006 earthquake.

Opening Phase

Biodiversity Conservation - 100 %

Phase I

Biodiversity Conservation - 82 %
Multi Focal Areas - 10 %
Climate Change - 6 %
International Waters - 2 %

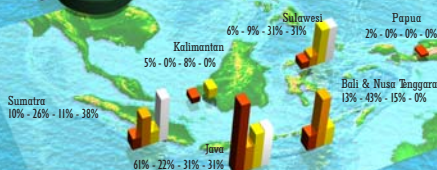
Phase II

Biodiversity - 74 %
Climate Change - 19 %
Multi Focal Areas - 7 %

Phase III

Biodiversity - 56 %
Multi Focal Areas - 32 %
Climate Change - 6 %
Land Degradation - 6 %

Grant Distribution in Pilot Phase - Operational Phase I - OP II - OP III



Focal Areas & Operational Programs

Biodiversity

Coastal, Marine and Fresh-water Ecosystem
Forest Ecosystem

Mountain Ecosystem



Land Degradation

Sustainable Land Management

International Waters

Waterbody-based operational program

Integrated land and water multiple focal area operational program

Contaminant based program

Climate Change

Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation
Promoting the Adoption of Renewable Energy by Removing Barriers and Reducing Implementation Costs

Climate Change Related to Land Degradation Issues

Persistent Organic Pollutants

Draft Elements of an Operational Programme for Reducing and Eliminating Releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants into the Environment

GEF SGP Indonesia has not adopted POP operational program.




Selling Micro Hydro Power

Location
Seloliman, East Java

Partner, Project Duration & Costs
KSM Peduli Seloliman
1998-2000 - US\$8,341
Konsorsium Seloliman
2000-2002 - US\$27,388
Paguyuban PTM Kalimaron Seloliman
2002-2004 - US\$27,000

It has long been predicted that Indonesia will face an energy crisis. One of the problems is the national distribution network for electricity: the failure of which led to a blackout throughout Java and Bali in 2005. It is therefore quite surprising to learn that the Micro Hydro Power (PLTM) of Kali Maron sold half of its production to PLN (National Electricity Company), which is in charge of the distribution. Why did PLTM sell to the troubled network? In fact, is not decentralized power production the solution to such failures?

The sale gave PLTM a monthly income of Rp4,000,000 compared with the previous monthly income of Rp800,000 for the whole community. The other half of the electricity production is used by the community. However profit was not the reason behind the sale. It was to show that micro hydro power might contribute to fulfil the electricity needs of Java and Bali.

The collaborative initiative of the local people and PPLH Seloliman – the association of PTM Kali Maron – to spread this self-sustained and self-managed initiative to other areas still faces a number of obstacles. Large initial investment (Rp350 millions) is needed to construct a micro hydro plant. Efforts to cooperate with local governments to construct such a plant in the region of Mojokerto were terminated when a regulation was passed prohibiting all regional governments from cooperating with foundations or NGOs. 

Several hundred years ago, a public bath in Jolotundo, an area at the base of Penanggungan Mountain, was constructed during the reign of King Airlangga. Since that time, it has received roughly the same amount of water. In the 1990s the flow decreased drastically as the upstream Perhutani-

ENERGY

Eventually, the government decided to disclose the energy crisis to public. Intentionally or not, the new policy on gas supply quota, effective from July 2005 was a rather good campaign. Soon afterwards, PLN called for the reduction of electricity use during the peak hours to the minimum 50 Watts per person. Even governmental officials were requested to take off their jackets in the office and switch off the AC to lower the load. Surveys are needed to ensure that the policy has indeed been effective. Questions should be asked of who are the largest end-users of electricity, households or industry private cars or factories; and how significant the reduction has been. Efforts to develop Indonesia's

diverse non-fossil fuel alternatives have long been in place; however the application is still poor. People's low capacity to adapt to new ideas (innovation) has often been referred to as the reason for poor uptake of alternative power systems. Price has also been said to be one of the major obstacles. But, it is not quite right to say that people cannot afford to pay for energy. From the afternoon to midnight one can hear a "symphony" of gensets in remote villages. We can calculate how much the genset costs and how much the people must spend on fuel to run the genset.

As a matter of fact, most villages are built close to rivers. The rivers hold a huge continuous kinetic power supply. Imagine how much economic benefit could be provided in arid areas if agricultural land could be become productive again by



managed forest was illegally logged to its last tree. Community-driven reforestation and management have been able to restore the flow to the bath, which is said to have a remarkable rejuvenating

effect. The micro hydro plant has made it easier for the local people to understand the hydrological cycle. Deforestation has consequences: unstable electric generation due to decreasing stream flow



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GRE SGP Indonesia / Harigarto Suwanto



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adequate water supply from well pumps powered by the wind or the sun, whose energy for electricity production has rarely been utilized so far. Governmental and research institutions have yet to contribute to impact-generating activities. The growing talks on environmentally-friendly energy among NGOs are partly due to its popularity in the society. The people are, in fact, willing to adopt alternative technologies if it supports their basic needs.

With all the successes and the failures, the introduction to alternative energy by SGP Indonesia's partners has taught a lot of lessons.

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Revitalization of Micro Hydro Power Plant

Location

Sinarasra, Sukabumi, West Java

Partner

People-based Business & Economic Institute (Ibeka)

Project Duration & Costs

1998-1999 SGP Indonesia: US\$49,946.5;
Co-financing: US\$ 44,552.6 (community & Ibeka)

Derived from the ex-post study by Taufiq Alimi in association with Department of Anthropology, the University of Indonesia.

In this project, the community and Ibeka practically rebuilt the abandoned power generator and infrastructure. The power plant was



GEF SGP Indonesia / Taufiq Alimi

initially constructed by the local government in cooperation with Bandung Institute for Technology (ITB), which was accomplished in one year, and had been operating ever since except in the driest months. The people had been trained to operate, maintain, and run the administrations as well.

Background

National Crisis

In 1997-1998 when the planning and implementation of the project took place, the country was suffering from the crises affected the livelihood of communities, even in a remote place as the project site on Mount Halimun, not only the economics and politics, but also shook the very social fabric. Under such circumstances, the further development of the project was not possible. Government was unable to provide basic infrastructure for betterment of communities' livelihood. Trust of the society in the government was at its lowest. People were left on their own. In this situation, many NGOs took more initiatives and bigger roles in developing communities through various projects. Initiatives to improve livelihoods included some good and productive initiatives, but sometimes it led to more destructive behaviors. Deforestation—legally and illegally—was pecking. Some national parks

and protected areas were looted. This situation worsened the livelihood of community members depend on the forests. Forests provided sources of living through the land for their farms and water irrigation for paddy fields. Alteration of social and economic systems had led to improvement in rural as well as urban areas.

Here Comes the Power

The traditional rules of Banten Kasepuhan do not allow community members to sell rice, and they have to cook using firewood. Before the micro hydro power system was established, community members used kerosene pressure lamps or kerosene lanterns. Each household consumed roughly one liter of kerosene per night. Abah Anom had a diesel generator which consumed around 20-25 liter diesel fuel per night which provided electricity to dozens of houses.

The maximum capacity of Sinarasra micro hydro power plant is 70 kilowatts. The plant runs only during evening, and occasionally in daytime. The power plant is fed by a one kilometer canal. The canal takes water from a river into a pipe generating 30 meters head of pressure. Under normal operation, the water is able to generate 40-50 Kwatt of electricity.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are about 360 household subscribers to the electricity from four hamlets.

Most customers use the electricity for limited lighting (5 watts), some for television or radio.

Project Sustainability

Ecology

The sustainability of the project cannot be separated from the ecological conditions of Sinarasra which is located inside Halimun National Park. Most people in the area are highland farmers. Rice is the main source of income, besides fish ponds and vegetable gardening. Almost all parts of Sinarasra can be reached by four wheel drive or light trucks. The center of the village lies about 20 kilometers from the district capital, Pelabuhan Ratu. This is one of the external factors that has triggered logging in the area, mostly illegal. However the environment in general is in good condition. The Park forest guarantees the stability of water supplying the micro hydro.

Social

The village is a traditional community under the leadership of Abah Anom. Abah Anom holds responsibility for improving the livelihood of the community and the micro hydro initiative is one such means to help the community.

The initiative of Ibeka to revitalize the power plant was seen as a chance to help the community through tough

times and crises, revitalizing the power plant to revitalize trust and introduce cohesion in the community.

Abah Anom also has been the sole decision maker for most of the issues in the community. He decided the

amount of traditional fines charged for violation of traditional customs, and when to have circumcision parties for their boys. He also decided how much the community should pay for the electricity.

The cheap price is an important factor that makes the community enthusiastic to maintain the plant. The other factor is the strong leadership of Abah Anom. However from the beginning of the project, trainings have helped some local technicians to learn how to run the plant.

Project Impact

The main output of the project is the revitalization of the damaged power plant, improvement of community livelihoods, and improving efforts of the community to maintain the forests, reducing the use of fossil fuels, and in the long run helping to improve the global environment.

The revitalization has been successful. However the full benefits of access to electricity are not enjoyed by most of the population. Most use of the electricity is lighting. Only one family uses it to power a freezer to produce ice. The power consumed by the communities is still very low compared to the capacity of the plant. The monthly payment records show that only seven kilowatts of energy are used, 10% of the plant capacity. However many customers use electricity without reporting their use. Even so, use of kerosene for most of community members and diesel fuel

for Abah Anom's electric generator has been reduced to almost zero. And the fuel needed for transporting in kerosene from the nearest town is no longer needed.

The most significant outcome is the increase in student's performance, because they can study longer at night with better lighting. The expected outcome of the increasing economic activities (ice making, wood work, garment and embroidery) or improved livelihood in general is not yet visible. Improved flow of information into the community—as expected to happen at the beginning of the project—is not significantly felt either as TVs can only be turned on in the evening when mostly entertainment programs can be watched.

Some unexpected outcomes however have occurred, such as increasing the political legitimacy of Abah Anom and the "inner circle" of people in the community. A leadership style centered on several key persons may endanger the long term sustainability of the community and its development. It will sustain development if the leader who holds the ultimate power is not corrupt, which until now is the case. Abah Anom, despite the ultimate power that he has, uses the power to serve the community.

The project helped the community to better understand forest conservation. The community realizes that the more the forest is cut, the more fluctuation of the water stream that feeds the power plant. The Banten Kasepuhan communities have set up a nursery for hardwood trees, as well as establishing and participating in forest patrols. The illegal deforestation which still happens in the National Park is mostly conducted by outsiders.

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SGP Indonesia/YPAL

Electricity for Nature Reserve

Location:
Cibuluh, Cianjur West Java

Partner:
Yayasan Pribumi Alam Lestari

Project Duration & Costs:
2003-2004 US\$44,338

More than half of the community of Cidaun Sub-district, Cianjur District, in particular those living in the mountain area bordering forest lands are yet to enjoy electricity services. Many people-driven efforts have been made to produce electricity, including the use of diesel generators (gensets) – most of which were abandoned due to high operational costs. Some of the people get electricity for their houses from the neighboring village. The electricity is transmitted through more than 2-km of telephone wire. Some others have established traditional water power plants, using motor-cycle dynamos attached to wooden wheels that are driven by stream flow. The capital needed amounts to Rp1.5 million (US\$160) with the monthly maintenance costs are Rp40,000 (\$5 for spare

parts and canal maintenance). It is a relatively expensive project given the small output, of 50-150 Watts. Moreover, it is unsafe. 6 deaths have been reported due to electrocution. There are nearly 600 waterwheels in the area. As the water source is a shared public



resource, struggles over access to water to run the turbines are common during the dry season.

It was no surprise that the people welcomed with open arms Yayasan

Pribumi Alam Lestari's (YPAL) initiative to establish a micro hydro power plant in 2003. At the beginning there were some doubts about such a plant as it was not made by PLN (National Electricity Company), and because two neighboring villages had bad experiences with outsiders attempting to help them establish micro hydro facilities. An initiative to establish a micro hydro power plant in Batuireng by Poklan, supported by SGP Indonesia, was canceled. In Mekarjaya, the Department of Energy's micro hydro project, implemented by the provincial government in cooperation with LPM of IPB (Bogor Agricultural Institute), has been abandoned.

YPAL first came to Cibuluh in 1998 to do some observation work on the Javan hawk (*Spizastur bartelsii*). In 2000 YPAL introduced agricultural species adapted to hard soils to some villages in Cidaun Sub-district and facilitated the formulation of a Village Regulation on forest conservation. To enforce the

regulation, the people formed Raksa Bumi Forest Patrol Team. Timber theft was rampant in the forest, which is part of Gunung Simpang Reserve.

Although the official number of team members was fifty, a lot of the people participated in the operations to stop illegal logging due to the injustice imposed on them. They were not allowed to log in the forest, but illegal logging was rampant, backed by the reserve officers. In 2005 participation in the logging patrols began to fade as the promise to bring electricity to the area had not been fulfilled.

In accordance with the MOU, SGP Indonesia's grant was to be disbursed in four stages, from November 2004 to May 2006. The first disbursement was only realized only in April 2005, the second in late December 2005. The workshop responsible for making of the turbine refused to continue completing the turbine. Almost five months went by without progress.

The people were once more haunted by the failures of the projects in Batuireng and Mekarjaya. The project management committee established in Cibuluh received much pressure from the people. Unable to stand



Traditional wooden power turbine.
Raksa Bumi forest patrol.

the pressure, one of the members, who trades in ginger gave up his working capital (Rp10 million or US\$1,100) for building materials and workers' expenses to continue the canal construction. Local people, who had been neutral or supportive, started to oppose the project. The awareness raised to encourage self-sustenance during the socialization seemed to fade away.

SEEKING CREDITS WITH CONTRACT

Few NGO/CBOs get bank funding (credits) for their programs. Initiatives to seek co-financing or emergency funding while waiting for the disbursement of a grant have yet to develop. The process is indeed not that simple. Yayasan Pribumi Alam Lestari (YPAL), whose grant disbursement was delayed, made three attempts to get bank credits: all ended in vain.

The first reason for the rejection was because the project funding came from foreign donors. If the foreign funding was not made available, the bank was afraid of being unable to 'chase' UNDP, although it had a representative office in Jakarta. The second reason was because it was a social project, the bank

felt reluctant to confiscate the collateral should the debtor be unable to pay off the loan. The third reason was that the project site, the implementing organization, and donor representative office were not located in the same area as the bank. Nevertheless, YPAL eventually succeeded in getting an individual loan so the project could be continued. The microhydro system was installed and inaugurated by the Head of the Regency in early 2006. The community center, a village market and office of head of village use the electricity along with 60 houses. The Head of the Regency has plans to replicate microhydro in other villages using the local government budget.



Micro hydro power plant with horizontal turbine.

Micro hydro power plants are capable of generating between 5,000 and 100,000 Watts. There are several types of micro hydro power plant. Some are similar to the large-scale water-powered plants like the one used by PLN (National Electricity Company). The scale of micro hydro power plants allows construction in remote areas and low investment, which can often be provided by the local people.

Pico-hydro power plants are smaller in size and capacity. Like micro hydro plants, the price of each watt generated is higher than that of large-scale micro hydro plant such as run by PLN. However, pico-hydro plant—even more than micro hydro—allows some breakthroughs deemed impossible in large-scale hydro plants. For example, pico-hydro generators with a capacity below 1,000 Watt weigh only 35 kgs, allowing it to be transported on motor cycles, the only means of motorized transportation in many remote areas of Indonesia. Another benefit is that the maintenance is simple and easy. It allows community-driven power generation. ■



Pico-hydro power plant with vertical propellers.

Pico Hydro

Location
Cianjur & Bandung, West Java

Partner
Forest Conservationist Association (Poklan)

Project Duration & Costs
2001-2002 - US\$25,000

In the beginning the project was granted a financial commitment from USAID, private enterprises and SGP Indonesia. Along with community self-financing, five pico-hydro power plants were to be established for five villages in Cianjur District and Bandung District. Water was abundant in the areas. Also, physical work was not very hard as there were already some irrigation canals. However, by the end of the project only one power plant was established, namely in Garung hamlet. The funding, amounting to Rp140 millions, came from Yayasan Bina Usaha Lingkungan. USAID's funding commitment for the project was not realized. SGP Indonesia also delayed the payment of the committed grant, which would be

used to support community empowerment and local institutional building.

In fact, the project had been quite successful in convincing the local people about the project. The people, who had been using traditional power plant (small waterwheels driven by motor cycle dynamo), were willing to adopt a pico hydro power plant. The management body had been trained to operate and maintain such a plant. The project also offered micro credits (e.g. for trade, cattle-raising, agrobusiness) in an attempt to entice the people to form the body. This economic improvement program was quite successful at the introduction and implementation level. However, it had yet to create market potential. There was friction among the people as not all people had access to credit.

With the cancellation of the pico-hydro power plant project, the people returned to their former electricity generating plants. Distrust of NGOs flourished. The project teaches us that building understanding of the values and the benefits of a given project is a lengthy process. Excessive aid in the short term (e.g. credit) does not ensure the establishment of a solid foundation. ■

Energy Efficient Stove

Location
The villages of Selomanik, Wadislanting, and Ngalian, Wonosobo District, Central Java

Partner
Yayasan Konservasi Lingkungan
Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$15,125

Located in a volcanic mountain area, the district of Wonosobo and the surroundings are very fertile. Poverty and bad regional management seem to race each other for the title of the leading cause of environmental degradation. The people are often blamed for deforestation. Forest dependent people in the production forest area managed by Perhutani say that the forest was looted by those who should have protected and managed it.

The project aimed at promoting energy efficient stoves in Selomanik and



GEF SGP Indonesia 1 Kolling

Ngalian villages to make the use of firewood for cooking more efficient and thus lessening pressure on the forest. The greatest obstacle faced by the program was related to psychology: how to shift the local people from their customs. Unlike the conventional stoves, which are made of stones in a simple structure, the energy efficient stoves are made of clay and sand. Previously nobody could ever make one leading to some delay in its development and introduction. In addition, clay and sand do not last as long as stone. Much more effort is needed to introduce the stoves and to explain their benefits in the long term.

At the beginning of the process, the people would rather have income-generating activities than attempting to save firewood. They did not see any relationship between conventional stoves and timber scarcity. Also, they could not understand that time saved by using an efficient stove could be used for more productive activities.

To overcome the obstacles and material-related problem, training was organized for the local stonemasons; however, only one eventually succeeded in making the energy efficient stove out of stone.



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On the other hand, the project approach, which aimed at the people's engagement from the beginning, yielded a very positive result. The people conducted a series of experiments to make the stove out of different materials (i.e. different composition of soil and sand). Some even attempted to make one out of ash and husks.

Introduction of a new concept or technology—such as the energy efficient stove—will yield greater responses if it is combined with another program. Such an introduction should also make approaches closest to the target's actual needs. Stoves are much closer to forestry and health issues than to economic ones, let alone policy advocacy. Empirical experience shows that the stoves can decrease the use of firewood by 30%, and cooking time by 1-2 hours per day. One of the facilitated groups formed a joint business group producing crystal sugar and cassava chips. The trend has effectively motivated others to take other initiatives. Then other groups flourish making other processed foods based on plants that they grow, such as ginger, providing new income as the people no longer have to sell unprocessed crops. Seeds of other small-sized enterprises have come to grow as indicated by the purchase of raw materials from other villages. More KUBs are being formed indicating the growing organizational awareness. ■

Organic Waste Composting

Location
Tambak Kulisogo, Sidoarjo, East Java

Partner
Yayasan Citra Bangun Indonesia
Duration & Initial Project
2002-2003 US\$28,471

The project aimed at empowering garbage collectors (*pemulung*) to separate and process organic

waste into compost. At the implementation level, the collectors cooperated with the regional government—which passes policy granting waste management concessions to waste collectors—and private businesses—which built processing mills. The roles of

the collectors were to classify, operate the machines, and sell the compost produced. Despite some unutilized programs due to a fuel price hike, in general, the project has succeeded in delivering its goals. Generally private businesses are better than NGOs at calculating funding risks. ■

POST-HARVEST PROCESSING

Post-harvest processing, particularly in tropical countries, is instrumental in determining the amount of people's income. In advanced countries, post-harvest processing contributes up to 80% of the income generated from agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. In developing countries, however the contribution is much less. To maximize the income generated from investment in the sectors mentioned above, more countries are turning to downstream policies, i.e. efficiency in post-harvest processing rather than increasing the harvests.

In temperate countries, about five per cent of agricultural production is lost due to fungus and insects. In tropical countries the figure is said to reach up to 70%! Most agricultural and fishery products in Indonesia shrink by up to 40% due to improper management and storage.

However, post-harvest management is not merely reducing the amount of decay. Many post-harvest technologies have been developed

to increase the product quality to meet the market demand. Producers do not have to sell the excess of their production cheaply as it can be preserved by post harvest processing.

Poor facilities and slow advance in post-harvest technologies hinder small producers from entering global markets. On one hand, middlemen offer loans to farmers to build drying places. On the other hand, energy-hungry dryers are often too expensive for small farmers.

Apart from the fact that solar dryers, like the one introduced in South and South East Sulawesi, have not been optimized yet, the introduction itself has brought about changes at community level. More time is now available for farmers to do other activities as they do not have to watch the commodity dried in the open space. Also, the level of women's and housewives' engagement in the program has been increasing, indicated by the establishment of women's management groups. ■

Solar Thermal Dryer

Location
Lembah Subur Village, Rawa Aopa
Watumohai National Park, Southeast
Sulawesi

Partner
Yayasan Swami

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$25,000

The main livelihood of the people of Lembah Subur Village, who mostly are of Bugis origin, living on the border of Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park, is traditional cocoa cultivation. The Swami Project improved local post-harvest management and successfully reduced threats to the Park through making the existing agricultural areas stable. The extension program included picking, breaking, fermenting and drying. Drying is a very important phase as the harvest always takes place during the wet season. One solution offered by the project was the use of solar thermal dryers (STD).

However, it turned out that STD was not an appropriate solution. 3 STD units were built, each capable of drying harvest from 10 hectares of cocoa gardens. The total people's cocoa gardens in the area in fact amounted to 2,800 hectares. So, the design was changed into drying ovens using kerosene, which requires a much smaller investment and so that more cocoa could be dried at once. A hybrid solar/biomass system could potentially replace the kerosene ovens if it was based on local materials, inexpensive and simple to operate and maintain. ■

Solar Tunnel Dryer

Location
South Sulawesi

Partner
Institute of Village, Coastal and People
Study (LP3M)

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$27,000

Like solar thermal dryer, the system offered by LP3M makes use of solar energy, but the design of the oven is shaped like a tunnel. Compared with the natural drying process under the sun, which may take several days to complete, solar tunnel dryer only takes 6-8 hours to completely dry crops (clove, vanilla, corn) and fishery products (anchovy, grouper). It turned out that the priority commodities to be dried were cloves and vanilla, so the dryer was only fully used during the main harvest of these commodities. To optimize the use of the dryers, efforts are needed to promote the drying of other commodities which have different harvest times. ■



Dry Land Organic Farming by Pesantren

Location
Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara

Partner
Institute of Pesantren and Community
Development (LPPM)

Project Duration & Costs
2003-2004 US\$9,398

Jagaraga Village, located 20 km from the capital city Mataram, has been known as the vegetable center supplying almost all the traditional markets in the West Lombok. However, farmers' income, which once reached up to Rp15 million (US\$1,500) monthly, was decreasing. Fertilizers and pesticide began to cost more and more. Rertilizer and pesticide needs increased as the land lost its fertility and pests were becoming immune to pesticides. Still, the production kept decreasing. Chili harvest reached 6.4 tons/ha in 2000 and dropped to 5 tons/ha in the following year. Prices were uncertain.

The project aimed at developing organic farming to restore the soil's fertility, increase production, reduce pest threats and plant diseases and increase prices through changes in planting cycles. Introduction to organic farming met no serious obstacles. It challenged some long-established agricultural

practices but these problems were easily resolved. A more serious obstacle, however occurred after the harvest. Consumers were not willing to pay a higher price for organic products as the benefits had not been well socialized. Marketing was not properly developed from the beginning. The poor sales depressed the farmers. However, the unsatisfactory prices gave birth to an innovative post-harvest initiative. The farmers

attempted to gain some added value by grinding the rice first and sold it as hulled rice instead of unhusked rice as previously practiced. Introducing an innovation to farmers is more effective if followed by field practices so that the farmers could prove its benefit to themselves. This had proven true with the re-development of a local rice variety—the Beag ganggas—following success with other varieties.

Selecting appropriate partners leads to greater success of the program. In the project LP2M chose to cooperate with Najmul Huda, a well-established farmer group within Nurul Hakim pesantren (Islamic boarding school). Under such cooperation, group preparation was not needed. Internal conflicts could be resolved easily. This proved true when the inter-member cooperation ran poorly the problem was quickly resolved by the enforcement of its internal regulations (awak-awak), which imposed heavy sanctions against violators. ■



Solar tunnel dryer



SGP, SGP Indonesia / Ari Mahanagayana

Replanting Coastal Area

Location
Jangkaran, Jogjakarta

Partner
The Foundation of Indonesia People Economic Development (Yaperindo)

Project Duration & Costs
2002-2003 US\$35,500



A coastal area encompassing 300 hectares, 50 hectares of which are located in Jangkaran, belongs to Sultan Ground. The people can utilize the land freely. However, the geographical conditions do not allow poor people to use it for their own sake. Prior to the 1980s, the land was rich in trees and was the habitat of diverse bird species. Gradually, the land became arid

due to the wind from the South Sea, carrying salt that killed the trees.

Yaperindo program aimed at increasing the local people's income through an integrated farming system and the introduction of alternative energy generation. It aimed at rehabilitating the coastal forest to function as a wind-break along the region of Congot, as well as operating a biogas unit and wind-powered water pumps.

To restore the vegetation, a number of wells were dug, equipped with wind-powered pumps to bring the water to the surface. Re-greening started with the planting of wind

and sand shield species (pandanus, gliricidia, cemara udang), followed by the development of secondary crop garden to increase the local income. Improvement in the people's welfare was to be achieved through revolving cow raising program. The cow pens were grouped to ease biogas production.

However, the prices of secondary crops suitable to grow there – red chilli and cassava – fluctuated. The program needs to be modified to develop self-funding activities. The relatively high cost of wells and wind-powered pumps has stopped program expansion to other groups.

Conservation and People-based Ecotourism

Location
Mahakam, East Kalimantan

Partner
Yayasan Biosfer Manusia (Bisma)

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$22,000

The majority of Dayak peoples along the Mahakam River continue to practice traditional management of their natural resources. One example that is well recorded in anthropological literature is community-managed forests that preserve the socio-economic, ecological and cultural values of the forest.

This SGP supported project was to enhance the participation of the local community and other stakeholders in the development of a community-managed conserva-

tion area to cater for ecotourism and sustainable resource use. The community's dependence on wood extraction since the 1970's timber boom was the main challenge for the local community to rediscover their old traditions in using forest resources sustainably. Access to site was expensive, and more funding was needed to implement intensive community facilitation. The provision of funding by other donors did not materialize before SGP's support finished. The NGO should have taken action to secure other funds to avoid the problem of discontinuation of funding. There was no record of it approaching other donors or local government to support the continuation of the project, for example through the local government budget for West Kutai regency II continued, the initiative could have become an alternative source of income for the local community and the regency.



Dry Land Democracy

Location
Mekarsari, Cilacap, Central Java

Partner
Rapid Agrarian Conflict Appraisal (RACA) Institute

Project Duration & Costs
2002-2003 US\$22,000

As in many cases in Java, a problem faced by farmers is their low capacity in resolving conflicts with outsiders. In fact, this is what facilitating NGOs see: the need to increase farmers' institutional capacity. On the other hand, RACA fully recognizes the significance of local economic needs.

The drought that struck Mekarsari Village was very worrying. The soil dried out and cracked to a depth of 20 cms. The only source of water – the Cikawung River – flows below the agricultural land and sinks even lower during a long drought. A solution to overcome the problem and to optimize the management of the agricultural land is to have wind-powered water pumps given the potential of wind energy in the area. However, the water generated was not as much as predicted, partly because the pumps were made of used materials. Some of the pump parts were not locally available, making the repair a very difficult task. Farmers again rented diesel pumps to irrigate the land.

Despite this, the wind-powered water pumps generated positive impacts on the local social life. The location of the pumps served as the discussion places for the farmers. Group work also steered away the perception – commonly held by the regional government – that farmers had no organizational capacity.

Fruit Garden Project in Unproductive Land

Location

Loa Bakung, Samarinda, East Kalimantan

Partner

Tembak Maris Foundation (YTM)

Project Duration & Costs

1998-1999 SGP Contribution : US\$9,709. Co-financing (Yayasan Bina Usaha Lingkungan): US\$1,006

Derived from ex-post study by Achmad F edyanti Salsuddin & Iwan Tjitrodjaja with the Department of Anthropology, University of Indonesia.

The goal of the project was utilizing unproductive land to develop a fruit garden for agro tourism, managed by local people. The location, Loa Bakung village, is in the vicinity of Samarinda, the capital of East Kalimantan province. Hopefully this will attract tourists from the city. The grantee, Yayasan Tembak Maris (YTM), have chosen to facilitate the Pal Besi community one of about 70 communities in Loa Bakung. Almost all of the 40 households were Butonese migrants. They moved to Samarinda in late 1970s, then transmigrated to

Loa Bakung village in 1980. The Butonese community in Loa Bakung was selected because their low economic condition supposedly made them hard workers. Their tendency to live in ethnic groups would make the YTM task to facilitate them easier because it would not be necessary to contact everybody in the community, just their leaders.

The first phase of the project, March 1998 - March 1999, was not successfully implemented. No field activities were carried out. Land clearing and seed planting training were not performed.

Facing termination of the contract, YTM reshuffled their project organization personnel. And they paid K kelompok Tani Karya Mandiri (KTKM) members from Pal Besi to clear five hectares of unproductive land. But according to the people's concerns, they didn't understand whether they will be allowed to work that land on a long time basis. They worked because they were payed. Actually, they were low income people who rely on day to day earnings.

YTM considered the continuation as the second phase of the project implementation. They recognized

that their first phase failure was caused by mismanagement, less controlling capability upon their own personnel who were responsible for handling project in the field, and lack of monitoring from the funding institution.

During April 1999 - January 2000 YTM succeeded to pursue and facilitate the KTKM to clear up 8-9 unproductive hectares of 14 hectares of lands in Loa Bakung allocated for the fruit garden project. Workers were paid Rp.35,000 per day (US\$3.00). About 16 varieties of fruit trees were supposed to be planted, including rambutan, melinjo, durian, sukun, cempedak, guava and mango. YTM complained that it was very hard to find rare fruit seeds. Then, to use the land

maximally they also planted short-term mixed plants such as corn and ginger between the rows of fruit plants. They cropped corn only once, because there was no more money. YTM payed two persons to tend the garden Rp. 100,000 (US\$10) per month for three months.

The land was then distributed among the members of the KTKM who previously worked upon it. But

Biodiversity in Unproductive Land

Location

Bogor, West Java

Partner

Ekspat

Project Duration & Costs

1998-2000 US\$5,160.30

At the outset, the project aimed at increasing local income through cultivation of various plants commonly found in villages on unproductive land, thus contributing to biodiversity conservation. Use of unproductive land

it was not maintained because the members were used to work for daily cash and could not wait for months or years for the fruit harvest.

The project was never completed, abandoned by the local people because they have not been sufficiently informed about the idea and objectives of the project. Some even got the first glimpse of the fruit garden project from local government persons, not from YTM. The project was designed with the village officials in terms of their own Mahakam Plan, not for Loa Bakung people's benefit, and without consultation with the community.

When the second phase was over, and no more money was available to pay the people, the project was not continued and the land returned to bushes again because nobody managed it. The YTM

became important in the light of the fact that more cultivated land was being converted to housing complexes to accommodate the increasing influx of people from outside Bogor. Biodiversity support was needed to balance the monoculture (rice) farming trend. However, in the middle of the program, the activities were focused more on organic farming and women's capacity building. Awareness raising through biodiversity failed to achieve its goals.

While the benefits of organic farming can be directly felt, biodiversity performance is hard to measure, and the benefits cannot be directly felt.

claimed the failure was because the local people were lazy, unwilling to learn new things about planting fruits. But even in the proposal, YTM did not have the right idea what to do. Their knowledge and understanding about project management was limited. They stereotyped the people as lazy and indigent. There was never an effort to clarify whether the community people were ready to manage the garden as the owners, not just workers. The people thought that the land did not belong to them because they were paid to work on it. Actually there was a chance to build the esprit d'corps. A coal mining company has been operating in the area nearby the community. Its operations have often gained protests from the villagers due to pollution it produced especially in dry season. Many

Another factor attributed to the failure was the fact that the idea originated from Ekspat without the people's engagement in making the proposal.

Apart from these problems, group establishment proved to be quite useful. Through discussions, groups of farmers, breeders, women, fruit orchard owners, pesantren (Islamic boarding school), were formed. The groups had access to credit, for example, a breeder group was granted a revolving fund from Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengembangan Sosial (Social Development and Research Institute) to purchase goats.

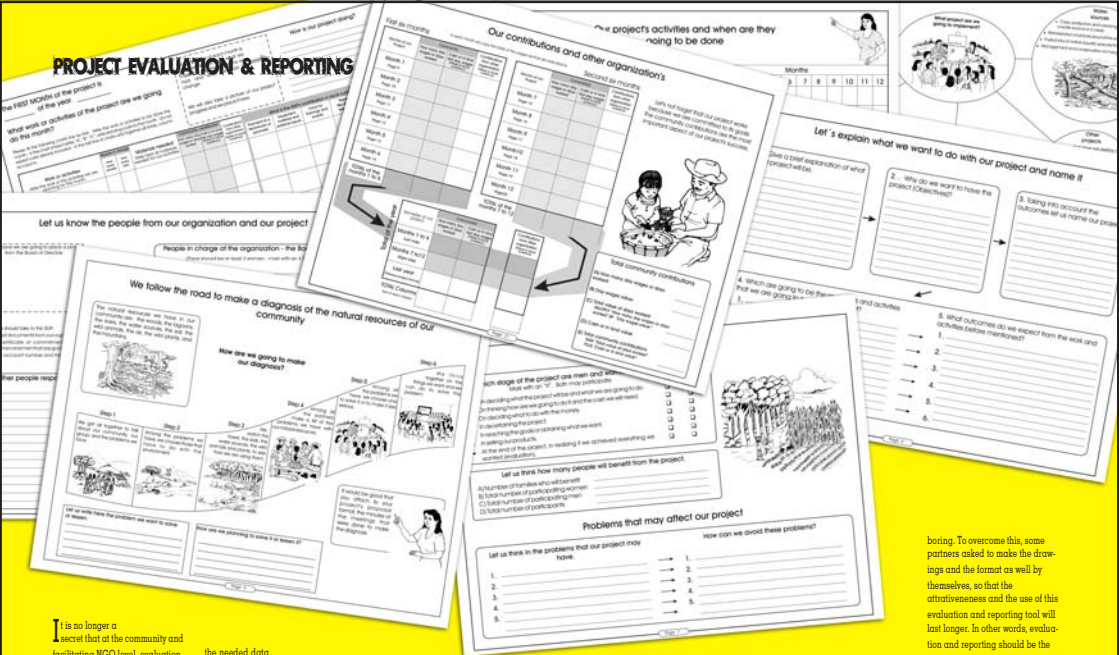
people have suffered respiratory tract infections, severe skin and eye irritations due to coal dust. In rainy season floods, muddy roads and diseases were not uncommon. The condition was put into the discussion agenda of the Pal Besi community to seek solutions to these problems.

In the second phase, the Pal Besi community people also received scholarship grants for 24 children, a Rp. 50,000./month/person (\$5), for one year. The YTM also granted 20 chickens each to 15 kids to raise. This was based on the indication that the community people actually need immediate cash and support such as money support for their children, or chickens that reproduced in much shorter than fruit trees. The project failed because the project goals and design didn't correspond to the needs and interests of the target community.



USP/SGP Indonesia-Achmad Fedyanti Salsuddin & Iwan Tjitrodjaja

PROJECT EVALUATION & REPORTING



It is no longer a secret that at the community and facilitating NGO level, evaluation and reporting are often seen as obstructive factors. In addition to the difficulty in reporting, non-systematic data collecting and storage make it difficult to retrieve

the needed data.


GEF SGP Guatemala proposed an initiative to overcome these obstacles. It introduced a format known as Almanario made of a piece of water-proof and tear-proof A1

paper (60x85cm), which could be easily held and filled in by people and local facilitators. Almanario was to be used from the project planning. The use was to

record progress before, during and after the project implementation.

A number of SGP Indonesia's partners have in fact made similar

efforts. However, experience teaches that a mere format does not guarantee project success. Drawings/Pictures/illustrations, which are interesting at first will soon become

boring. To overcome this, some partners asked to make the drawings and the format as well by themselves, so that the attractiveness and the use of this evaluation and reporting tool will last longer. In other words, evaluation and reporting should be the integral part of a given project, and as such, the same approaches commonly applied to the initiating, planning and implementing phases are applicable, too. 



Rural Ecotourism Network

Location
The Villages of Pelaga, Sibetan, Ceningan, and Tenganan, Bali

Partner
Wisnu Foundation
Project Duration & Costs
2002-2003 US\$35,000

Part of Bali, Tenganan, Ceningan Pelaga and Sibetan villages are rich in nature's beauty and attractive to tourists. Facts show, however, that mass tourism does not always generate positive impacts or contribute to local economy, in particular as in the case of mass tourism controlled by outsider operators. Environmental tourism (Ecotourism) has been increasingly promoted as a solution to local economic development: low in volume but high in value. However, ecotourism is often translated merely as 'visit nature'. Yayasan Wisnu and the communities of four villages offer real village life as part of a tourist attraction. It is well recognized that

Bali offers cultural more than nature tourism. The project was implemented simultaneously in the four villages to allow service sharing. The long term objectives were to include other villages in Bali and at the same time conserve local resources and biodiversity, which embrace unique and ritual natures. However, Village Ecotourism Network (JED) was unsuccessful in developing effective business strategies. It was rather slow in seeking the market. Trekking packages were not designed in accordance with the unique characteristics of the villages. Business demands were not anticipated seriously. Cooperation with tourism operators did not run smoothly, as JED was not a legal corporate entity. On the other hand, Wisnu had in fact anticipated the local economic needs. The project started with efforts to create food and energy independence, among others through development of botanical gardens for customary ceremonies and post-harvest management of seaweed. Unfortunately, the project did not run as expected partly due

Park Guide Training

Location
Mount Gede-Pangrango National Park, Cianjur West Java

Partner
The Foundation of Bioscience and Biotechnology Development (YPBB)
Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$19,000

The project was a follow-up of environmental education and guide development as well as a collaborative program to develop nature tourism pioneered by YPBB in Gede-Pangrango National Park (GPNP) since 1985. GPNP is one of the major tourism destinations in West Java. Of the three tourism centers in GPNP Cibodas is the most popular as it contains the botanical gardens - a



to internal affairs when the community's organizing work was not yet optimum. ■

collection of montane tropical forest species. Cibodas is also the entrance for hikers to Mount Gede and Mount Pangrango.

The main target of the project was nature lovers, who would be trained as guides. At the implementation level, however, the nature lovers - who are mostly Senior High School graduates - were not prepared for a long term learning processes involving specific skill improvement. Accordingly, the entry points used included park waste issues, good camping practices, and other environmental issues. However, understanding of the social makeup of Park users was poor. YPBB's analyses showed that the target group had low motivation due to competition. While the program was designed to offer voluntary work, there were many

programs in the same location offering professional pay YPBB recognized its limitation to expand the program to commercial level, particularly promotion, so it failed to address the economic needs of the target groups.

In addition, YPBB did not have adequate capacity to organize nature lovers, who have their own networks and 'rules of the game'. The groups

are also governed by seniority. Regeneration and capacity building will be very difficult if these aspects are ignored. ■

Conservation for Local Community Development

Location
Menoreh, Central Java

Partner
Patra-Pala Foundation
Project Duration & Costs
1998-2000 US\$23,708

Menoreh mountains, where the Borobudur Temple lies, is a watershed supplying water for community's agricultural land and forests throughout the district of Magelang. This function, however, is in conflict with some of the tourism interests at one of the world's wonders. Not only local people surrounding the temple but outside investors also put much interest in tourism. Incoming investments have converted agricultural land, forcing local people to encroach on forest land for their livelihoods, which adversely affects the watershed capacity. The project aimed at providing alternative income-generating activities to reduce threats to the region of Menoreh. The Patra Pala program covering fisheries, animal husbandry, organic farming and ecotourism capacity building, did not completely achieve its goals. The

program was terminated after the SGP Indonesia's grant was used up, just at the time when the program was becoming successful in arousing the local people to get communally and participatorily engaged in it.

Patra Pala, in fact, was quite successful in developing the network. The local-driven conservation concept opened the way to communication with other NGOs, including Yayasan Rindang, Klub Indonesia Hiyau, Yayasan Lingkar Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia, and Yayasan Wana Mandiri. A number of comparative studies and observations had been conducted by Insist, Canadian Crossroads International, Matala Bio Gama Universitas Gajah Mada, and Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia [Jakarta]. Cooperation was also built with the district government. Approaches had been made to a number of funding donors, including TDI - Germany, Oxfam - United Kingdom, Conservation International, Yayasan Kehati, CEEPI, and JICA. From the private sector, Forum Ekowisata Yogyakarta was interested in organizing a joint program in the area. Despite all these potential funders, the project failed to follow through with the network potential to develop community empowerment programs.

■ Borobudur Temple with Menoreh Mountains in the background



Community Forestry in Conservation Area

Location
Alas Purwo, Baluran, Bromo-Tengger-Semeru, and Meru Betiri National Parks, East Java

Partner
Konservasi Alam Indonesia Lestari (KAIL) Foundation

Project Duration & Costs
2003-2004 US\$2,000
2004-2005 US\$38,000

Based on the experience in developing a community forestry program in Meru Betiri National Park, KAIL Foundation was encouraged to initiate collaborative work in three other national parks in East Java, namely Alas Purwo, Bromo-

Tengger-Semeru, and Baluran. All the four national parks share similar characteristics including their community's sociocultural basis.

The project was among the ones that were granted planning grant funding from GEF SGP Indonesia before being full funding was approved. The purpose of the planning funding was to design initial bioregional management and development plans of the national parks. The design included assessing and formulating strategic plans, and selecting demonstration villages.

The first stage of the project identified a number of problems which became the targets of the second stage. All of the stakeholders demonstrated high personal selfishness/arrangance. Park managers felt that the parks

were theirs and that local people should not be engaged in the management, let alone the planning. To forest rangers, local communities were the cause of forest degradation without trying to understand that forests and all their resources are an integral part of local people's lives. On the other side, the local people could not understand why they were not allowed to utilize forest resources as they had been doing for generations. The regional governments themselves had their own interests and perceptions.

The positive side was that the limited workshop held during the first stage was successful in convening the people to design the next planning stage. It was these initial findings which were accommodated in the program plan submitted for full funding. ■



West Bali National Park

Location
Sumbeklampok, West Bali National Park

Partner
Sumbeklampok Multi-business Cooperative

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$22,815

The most serious problem faced by the community of Sumbeklampok Village was conflict with West Bali National

As an entry point, organic farming was chosen to increase local economy and provide an alternative livelihood. Independent community and environment friendly economy were expected to mobilize support for recognition of community's rights to land and resource management. WBNP had granted permits to 3 private tourism operators, including pearl cultivation as an attraction.

The project is an example where GSP Indonesia gave a direct grant to a community group. First acquaintance with donors was facilitated by an NGO called Manikaya Kauci. Then, KUB (a joint business group)

Sumbeklampok, which was established by the community, built an active network with a number of organizations, including Yayasan Wisnu, Bahtera Nusantara, WWF Wallacea, and

governmental institutions such as the Park Management, Eresty Agency and Bali Provincial Legislative Assembly (DPRD). KUB Sumbeklampok conducted active consultation with relevant groups not only about socialization and coordination, but also administration and finance, economic activity development, participatory mapping, buffering species cultivation and integrated farming.

Up to the completion of the project, no buffer zones for the village and the Park had been designated or drawn on the official maps. Community rights to land and resource management were still not recognized by the Park Management. However, the Park Management and Eresty Agency informally recognized the community's buffer area bordering on the village.

Wana Agung Multi Business Cooperative established by the community had been successful in getting credits. The village conservation concept - organic farming - bore fruit through the sale of the organic products and fertilizers to Gilimanuk and Banyuwangi. As for legal advocacy, the community established their own institution called Yayasan Pilang. ■



West Bali National Park is the last natural habitat of Bali mynah (*Leucopsar rotchilii*).

Park (WBNP) over land status. The project therefore aimed at government recognition of community's rights to land and resource management. In addition to upholding the rule of law, a buffer zone was needed to reduce threats to the Park.



Mount Palung National Park

Location
West Kalimantan

Partner
Biodamar Foundation

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$20,000

Illegal encroachment and logging has long been practiced in the buffer zone of Mount Palung National Park. The shrinking community forest forced them to encroach deeper into the Park. Advocacy efforts in the

community of Laman Satong Village aimed at developing local agriculture and husbandry to reduce the community's dependence on forest products.

At the beginning of the project, the high dependence on forest products and the wide distribution of the local actors hampered the awareness raising activities. Biodamar made an agreement with the community group. Group members who had received aid should involve it to other members, and invite other people to become group members.

In the beginning Biodamar did not have the organizing capacity to

bring the people to such a solution, but the project implementation taught Biodamar a lot of valuable lessons. The activity schedule was re-designed with community participation to suit seasonal work. In the light of Biodamar's limited technical skills, it built cooperation with other institutions, for example, with Ketapang Estate Crops Agency in cultivation.

At the end of the program, some of the community had started to sell their agricultural products outside the village. However, several planned activities had to be terminated due to the short advocacy period. ■

Mount Palung National Park is one of several habitats of Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and Bekantan (*Nasalis larvatus*) in Kalimantan.



GEF SGP Indonesia | Hanjento Suwarno

In mid 1980s the Green Revolution of the Government's Agriculture Department required all farmers in Indonesia to grow new hybrid varieties of rice. There was no exception for Jetis, a small hamlet in Gunung Kidul, Jogjakarta which is well-known for water problems and dry stony soil. Its

farmers tried to make the harvest level increase through using the hybrid seeds, but the 'new' rice needed more water. The farmers became dependent on pesticides and chemical fertilizers which decreased soil fertility and beneficial insects.

Ekosistem terpadu. Hampir di tiap halaman rumah di Jetis ada kandang sapi dan kebun. Pengertian lumpung pangan mencakup seluruh halaman rumah dan lahan kosong. Mengelola semua sumberdaya yang ada berdasarkan pemahaman ekosistem terpadu.



Integrated Organic Farming

Location:
Jetis Hamlet, Gunung Kidul,
Jogjakarta

Partner:
Cipto Makaryo Farmer Organization

Project Duration & Costs
2001-2003
SGP Indonesia: US\$27,318
Other contribution: US\$6,209

Since 2001, the Cipto Makaryo Farmer Group in Jetis, facilitated by Cindilaras, Rural empowerment and Global Review Institution from Jogjakarta had initiated using organic fertilizer and natural pesticides. The practice of rice mono-cultures has been abandoned. The locals now grow secondary crops or palawija and local plants as soil conditioners and natural insecticides. The dependency on irrigation was solved by digging wells in the field.

With Cindilaras support, Cipto Makaryo received grants from SGP Indonesia. The group bought 12 cows. After breeding, the first baby cow could be bought for a low price by the owner. The mother cow could then be transferred to another farmer. Today, there are 35 families with cows. The same scheme is applied to goats after the failure of a fish pond project. In 2004 the community agreed to form a credit union group, with capital of 20 million Rupiah (US\$2,000). By April 2005, the fund reached 46 million rupiah. Slowly but constantly the economy has been getting better. There are only a few farmers who still owe money, due to

DIRECT GRANTS TO CBOS


Grants channelled by SGP are relatively small, up to a maximum US\$50,000 for a given 24-month program. Such fund is sufficient to finance the overhead costs of an assisting organization (mainly NGOs) only if the organization follows its main goal: supporting community initiatives to address environmental problems. The question is can a grant be directly

channelled to self-help groups? In SGP's first years worldwide, this was not possible, as one of SGP's regulations stipulates that grants are only given to legal entities. Experiences show that community-based organizations are weak in managing programs, in particular those needing large funding. A breakthrough was needed to address the problem. SGP Indone-

sia re-considered the policy. In the First Work Phase, five grants were granted to CBOS. It turns out that only one program failed to achieve its targets, which we regard as not a bad result. In the Second Work Phase, all the five grants granted to CBOS were successful. One was the Integrated Organic Farming and Gardening, developed by a farmer's group named Cipto

Makaryo in Jetis, Jogjakarta. All the successful programs were indebted to the organizations assisting the CBOS. It was Cindilaras, an organization assisting Cipto Makaryo, which initiated a relationship with SGP Indonesia. An assisting organization is often needed, in particular during the initial stages of a given project. The problem is, however,

that only a few assisting organizations are prepared to incorporate CSOs into the full-cycle of a program, particularly in the program initiation, planning, and funding. Despite Cindilaras's assistance, it was Cipto Makaryo, which exercised the authority in decision-making and was in charge of the project implementation.

Based on the experiences learned from the previous phases, in the third phase SGP Indonesia focused on direct cooperation with KSM, while taking the implementing organization's capacity into consideration. SGP Indonesia would suggest assistance (an assisting organization) when deemed necessary. 



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crops: rice, corn, watermelon, cassava and vegetables. The community says that the roots of local rice, unlike that of VUTW (a kind of pest-resistant

rice) do not spread so it can be grown next to, for example, chili bushes. Local species need less water. To get rid of pests, natural pesticide is applied. Traditional knowledge of pest control species, like several kinds of taro and tobacco, is again being applied.

According to Mbah Mitro, a local elder, who in the photo is treating tobacco for use as a pesticide, the term 'organik' (farming) stands for *obahing badan lan obahing utek, olah raga dan olah otak*, that is to say, the most important thing in organic farming is the adaptation of way of living and way of thinking.

"If there's a well in the field", one Indonesian proverb says, "we can ask for permission to take a bath". In the dry region of Jelis, wells support mixed crop plantations as the community starts to grow local

price-hikes for fertilizers and pesticides in the past.

The community did not follow gender-based work. Both men and women work in the field, plantations and even at home, including taking care of the children. Over the last five years the number of households has remained the same. Children' level of education, however, is still low, due to both limited income and

perception that the only education needed by children is how to help the community develop the village. Indirectly, Jelis's success is attributed to the fact that the village is poor in natural resources. The special province of Yogyakarta recognizes three types of land ownership: state land, private/individual land, and the Sultan's land. The community may utilize the

Sultan's land but cannot own it. This tradition, stipulated by the Sultan, leads to a small number of land-related conflicts. The community barely has interest in determining or defending land, let alone in Gunung Kidul. No investors or speculators, except limestone companies, will be interested in the area. The community has no temptation to sell the land. **Box**

Food Sovereignty. Organic rice produced by Jelis community is used for self-consumption although the market price is much higher than non-organic rice. The community developed grain storage groups. The neighborhood grain

storeroom measures 2 by 2 meters; the village's grain store is twice as large. Members of the community that are late in harvesting their rice can 'borrow' the storeroom rice. A grain store even embraces the entire house's yard and the surrounding bare patches. Utilizing the available natural resources.

Self-documentation for Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Resources Management

Location:

Ngata Toro, Central Sulawesi

Partner:

Ngata Toro Indigenous Community

Project Duration & Costs

2003-2004

Total US\$38,455. SGP Indonesia

US\$30,000. Community US\$3,700.

Yayasan K. onfiden US\$3,800. Technical

assistants GEF SGP Indonesia: visual

documentation specialists, project cycle

management, visual documentation

training.

Toro is an indigenous community neighborhood within the Lore Lindu National Park, in Central Sulawesi. Illegal poaching, protected animal trading and fish-electrifying were common when the project started. To address these threats the traditional community has created Tondog Ngata, a forest ranger troop. Their duties are to uphold the indigenous law as it applies to the protected forest based on indigenous regulations. But Toro village-

ers are not the only ones who benefit from the forest y resource in the Toro community zone. The indigenous governance apparatus also set-up indigenous rules applied to those from outside the indigenous community who enter community lands. The national park management acknowledges Toro indigenous law but many policy dialogs were needed especially with the local government, the forest authority and neighboring hamlets/villagers to achieve this recognition. The meetings developed a system of comprehensive and growing community forest management with collaboration with neighboring villages and other stakeholders.

In 2004, Ngata Toro community was one of 26 finalists from community groups around the world in the 2004 Equator Initiative award. GEF SGP Indonesia recognized the Toro achievement by granting them USD 30,000.

One of the most important aspects within the GEF SGP Indonesia and Toro collaboration is a documentation process and communica-

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Modern Conservation Within Cultural Framework

Maria Hartiningsih

Journalist, Kompas Daily

Cool air greeted us, relieving the tiredness and the discomfort resulting from a three-hour trip through bumpy, steep, twisting roads, which in some parts were narrowed down by landslides exposing us to dangerous ravines and steep forests on both sides. Some unexpected views were spotted at villages recently torn by earthquakes and floods.

"Seperti tsunami kecil. Ngeri, tapi masih untung karena tidak ada korban," ujar Umar, supir kami, ketika kami melintasi bagian yang

masih porak peranda di beberapa desa, memasuki kilometer 25 menuju Ngata Toro. Kami mencapai Ngata Toro sekitar pukul 20.00 waktu setempat (satu jam lebih cepat dari WIB) dan mendapati desa itu sudah separuh tidur.

"It is like a small-scale tsunami. Terrible indeed, but fortunately there are no fatalities," said Umar, our driver, when we were driving through the ruins at the KM25 towards Ngata Toro. We arrived at 8 p.m. local time and found half the

village had already gone to bed.

We stood in total darkness. Though electricity had lit the village's houses, the light was too weak to pierce through the darkness. At times we heard the sound of something being beaten on hollow wood that turned out to be wooden cow-bells. The cattle were herded freely in the grassy and scrubby field.

Here we were in Ngata (or village) Toro, a village 85 kilometers to the west of Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi. One of the 28 villages

foundation, groups of Toro audio visual videomakers could produce good quality video documentation. In 4 months they produced 7 video outputs which have been used as a dialog tool with neighboring villages and members of parliament. They have documented village and region policy decision process on the livelihood sources that could impact the Toro community. ■

that make up Kulawi Sub-district, the village was frequently mentioned in international events due to its on-going identity reorientation as a community, including its hard work in re-applying local knowledge in natural resource management.

Made up of 7 hamlets, it houses 567 households totaling 2,307 lives. It is situated in a valley and slopes surrounded by mountains, part of which protrudes into Lore Lindu National Park (LLNP).

"Our village is located at the bottom of a bowl-shaped valley," said Rukmini, 35 year-old mother of three children, who has been attempting to revive Toro indigenous women's power since 2001. With only one narrow and stony road connecting the village with the surrounding villages, Toro is an enclave bordering on the Park.

Rukmini said that July 2000 saw the signing of the Ngata Toro Indigenous Territory encompassing 22,950 hectares, 18,000 hectares of which had been designated by the central government as part of the National Park in 1993.

Although started in 1997, institutional revitalization in the area has been more intensive since 2000 when local wisdom in forest management began to be promoted and documented; the existence and the role of customary organizations had to be strengthened. This was what M. Shohibudin

of the Bogor Agriculture Institute referred to in his thesis entitled *'Artikulasi Kearifan Tradisional dalam Pengelolaan Sumberdaya Alam sebagai Proses Reproduksi Budaya'* (Articulation of Traditional Wisdom in Natural Resource Management As Cultural Reproduction Processes) (2003) as 'an effort to develop modern conservation within the ideological framework and collective agenda of the Toro community'.

"This might be the impact of the reform," said Village Head Naitali B. Porentjo BBA (47), who has been leading the village for 11 years. He added that prior to the reform, the village head was a very powerful local elite. "Now, it is no longer possible. Everything must be discussed with and agreed to by the indigenous community council," said he. According to him, the council consists of 13 members: 7 village heads and 6 prominent figures at community level. "The six consists of 3 men and 3 women, of whom Rukmini is one," he continued. Rukmini formed *Organisasi Perempuan Ngata Toro* (OPANT) (Indigenous Women's Organization of Ngata Toro) in 2002.

Shohibudin's study showed that in the pre-colonization era the Toro community had - like the neighboring villages - a 'village ideology' in its fullest meaning, i.e. it was an independent social political unity. These

communities were beyond the interest (as well as the ideology and the supremacy) of Islamic empires ruling in the coastal areas.

The disenfranchisement of customary organizations might have started when the Dutch power was effective in 1905 although the Dutch kept local rules, tradition and culture to maintain its hegemony in the region.

The Dutch introduced a more hierarchical government model that altered the basic inter-village federation, which was rather informal in nature. The Toro community and the other surrounding villages were then designated as *Kampung*, the lowest governmental unit in the ideological government practiced in the region when the Dutch came in 1905.

History also tells that in some ways the New Order regime adopted the ideological government. The regime passed regulations and policies that - it said - respected adat (customary rules), but in fact it disenfranchised the functions and made adat an ornament just to show Indonesia's cultural diversity.

On the other hand, the creation of uniform governmental structures through Law No. 5 Year 1979 on Regional Governments effectively eradicated the socially-diverse local institutions, such as *Nagari* in West Sumatra, *Lambang* in Toraja, *Baua* in Kalimantan and many others.

tion on the local wisdom of the Ngata Toro experiences in managing their natural resources in collaborative way. Aside from information dissemination towards the international community, Ngata Toro had positioned inter-village discussions with the local government as a target for their information. As well as printing a book on local herbal medicines book printing, the Ngata

Toro Indigenous Institution has trained the youth group in how to film their own knowledges. The main goal for the villager filmmaking is to increase awareness of traditional wisdom among Toro generations and surrounding hamlets, especially on sustainable natural resource management. The media chosen is participatory video documentation. After going through an intensive workshop for almost a month with the Konfiden



The forced integration of these local institutions into the national political system through the law not only disenfranchised the local institutions' dignity and gradually deteriorated them, but above all, it strictly controlled community's natural resources by re-designing the ideological and demographical structures.

This happened in Ngata T oro for two decades before the community gained the strength to redefine their identity and tradition as a community and their environment. With this, they could reaffirm ideological autonomy over natural resource management.

According to C.H. Towaha, a local elder who refused to be called 'customary leader', before the state, education and religion were established, customary institutions were functioning very well. All aspects of life were governed by *adat*. When a 'new civilization' came, *adat* was neglected.

"*Adat* is only practiced for ceremonies. The essence is neglected," said the respected elder. "*Adat* no longer governs the life. The government defines the relationship between humans and the nature according to its interests."

Policies and regulations decided on without community consultation, according to T owaha, are used to take control over natural

resources, which the state claims belong to it.

It was for these reasons that the Toro community rejected the LLNP's pure conservation ethic and offered instead one that favors the community and community participation. Moreover, as Toro's Head mentioned, the forest area designated as part of LLNP overlapped customary forest (*huaka lando*) and community plantations. He added that Toro's traditional wisdom embraced traditional zonation that utilized and managed natural resources based on their functions (*huaka*) and ownership (*dodoba*).

"Previously, we did not want to use the traditional wisdom. Just leave it. There are regional regulations governing conservation," he added. But the community knew nothing about the regulations as the regional government had never socialized them.

"They knew the regulations when they were arrested and tried at court because they did something that violated them. The local tradition did not prohibit such a practices," said he.

In relation to the violations, Towaha criticized the government's inconsistency. Some time ago a Toro opened a plantation in the part of their territory that was allowed by the local tradition.

"The government said that it was part of the restricted area. How-

ever, some time later a company came and opened a large plantation in the area. The company obtained the government's permit. So what does the government want?" Towaha sighed.

As Towaha mentioned, prior to the year 2000 the customary institutions and the village administration were flooded by community complaints about illegal establishment in areas that were forbidden by the tradition.

"The community blamed us. So, they know their responsibilities," Towaha spoke of one of the reasons behind the revitalization of village institutions. If the tradition was enforced, there was no way for the outsiders to advantageously use the community to illegally log in the forest.

With the tradition governing forest management, the community could directly control what was going on in their forest. Rukmini, the local women's leader and founder of Toro women's group, said that there were several cases of illegal logging by outsiders.

"They were judged by *adat* and had to pay sanction of buffalo, plates and sarong," she said. However, Rukmini said that the most important part of the trial was not the things but social sanction from the community.

"Nature should be managed wisely as we depend on it," Towaha asserted. According to Toro cus-

toms, forest management is divided into three: first, the *wanakini*, is a montane forest with the remaining small timber trees and thick lichen on the trees and the soil.

"It is always cloudy and drizzling there even in the dry season," said Towaha.

Second, the *wana*, is an area covered by thick lichen with large timber trees already grown.

"Destruction to these two parts will greatly affect humans," Towaha continued. *Wanakini* and *wana* are sources of fresh clean air and water as well as medicinal herbs not found elsewhere.

Third, the *pengale*, is an area that can be utilized except the forested part (*taoro*).

"Although the *taoro* forest is flat, dry and on limestone, it may not be cleared," Towaha explained.

Fallen branches can be collected but it is strictly forbidden to strip the forest. Headwaters cannot be utilized. Riparian land up to 250 meters from the banks of streams can be utilized. The tradition forbids sale of any of the land. Towaha complained about his hard obligation to ask young people to see nature in a wise and non-greedy way

"Now everything is different. Local wisdom is hard to perceive. Young people money is everything," he said.

In some ways Towaha's complaints

revealed a competition between the old values perceived as an 'ideal' and new values brought by city style and ideology.

Rukmini and Nathali's efforts to document local wisdom and biodiversity by use of modern equipment (handycam) provided by a donor seemingly did not gain total acceptance of Towaha.

"Visualization is one-sided."

Towaha commented on the two local leaders, who it turns out are his relatives.

"Socializing local wisdom needs direct communication," said he.

This is just one problem. Another problem in relation to the influx of a large number of NGOs helping build local capacity is the difficulty in conveying the community to discuss village problems.

"Now, you have to provide some transport, tea, coffee, cigarettes and even snacks to convene the community," said Towaha.

It might be that the next step forward is to create room for negotiation to seek a middle ground between the old and the new values, by which the community could maintain their tradition to manage the natural resources in an effective but not exclusive way as well as to encourage the surrounding communities to revive their own wisdom to re-define and re-establish their identity and environment.

Rukmini

It was getting late. The temperature was dropping to 16°C in mid-September. The village in a remote area in Kilwi Sub-district, in the middle of Central Sulawesi, 85 kilometers from the provincial capital, seemed to be embraced by the surrounding mountains, and to greet LLNP that encompasses some parts of the village.

We were sitting face to face on a red carpet that had holes in some parts, with two cups of hot tea to warm up our chilly bodies. The woman was wrapped in a sarong. At a first glance, she was like other Toro women, who had to finish the house chores first before having time to enjoy themselves. Her face was tender and tranquility radiated from her eyes.

She was Rukmini, a 35-year-old housewife with three children. Her youngest child, Alam (5), called his mother 'Bu Rukmini' (Mrs. Rukmini), a name that was very close to the local lives, to the dynamics in both public and private domains.

That afternoon, she had a female victim of domestic violence, who came for consultation and protection.

Rukmini, along with the village head Nathali B Porentjo, local figures (such as CH Towaha, and Berwin P representing the youth), and a progressive Protestant priest Rerdy Lumba are the main actors in



He said nothing about who asked him to delegate some of his authority; however, from his long talk it was not very difficult to conclude that it was his decision. He acknowledged well that the

"What has been happening in Bro follows an internal - rather than external - agenda and dynamics," said Rukmini.

"Women had no forum to discuss protection of natural resources, no customary court, and no customary decision-making. Our roles were restricted to household chores.

In May 2001 a women's workshop was held to discuss the governmental structure of Ngata Bro. Another workshop in August 2001, facilitated by a Palu-based women's group called *Kelompok Perjuangan Kesetaraan Perempuan Palu* (Women Equity Struggle Group of Palu) produced the OPANT Declaration, followed by the election of the management board at ngata and boya (hamlet) level. With the declaration, women had bigger access in customary and governmental institutions.

The demand was fulfilled by a village-level meeting in October 2002 discussing the structure and relationship among institutions in Ngata Tro, regulations on natural resource management, work programs, etc. The meeting produced the structure and the relationship among four major village institutions: the village administration, the customary council, the Village Representative

and OPANT. The story shows the long history of local knowledge and institutions. The aspects have been constructed by various groups, depicting changeable power relations. All these have been colored with the tug-of-war between ideological discourse on development, conservation, and natural resource management, on one side and local wisdom leading to community identity on the other side. Rukmini is a figure that demonstrates how women have been playing strategic roles in the dynamics. However, Rukmini and OPANT's struggle still faces a long winding road ahead. Negotiations should be continued. The tug-of-war between 'tradition' and 'local wisdom' on one side and 'modernity' on the other side has yet to achieve a middle ground within the community while challenges keep coming from the outside. Uniquely, natural resources-based business interests always come together with ideological practices of conservation that marginalize their own constituents.



Community-Based Participatory Programs: Necessity or Obligation?

Ito Natalia Asikin

Community engagement is a form of appreciation for the groups affected by either the benefits or the shortcomings of a given program. Closing the space for participation is a violation of the principles of togetherness among the people, the government and other civil society groups.

Talking about community participation is like initiating community engagement in all the activities within a given program, from the planning to the monitoring and evaluation. Participation is a strategy to disseminate information to the people involved in the entire program. The utmost expectation from participatory processes is the room to learn together, to take the responsibilities together and to avoid any distance among the involved

groups. Simply put, participation can mean efforts to engage a lot of groups and to bind them to be accountable and responsible for all the activities done together. It must be admitted that the awareness of the need to engage the people is a result of critical learning about the failures of the programs that have been executed by the government and NGOs, particularly GEF-SGP partners. In fact, participation cannot be separated from NGOs' work. Some

say that participation is a must for program accountability. Facts show, however, that participation is often purposely developed to achieve some hidden agenda.

There are a large number of ongoing programs developing pseudo participation to achieve temporary short-term goals. The government's national Gerban (Land and Forest Rehabilitation Program) does not lead to positive movements in many regions, but increasing corruption and abuse. Community contribution is very low; the communities are involved just as nursery or planting workers. The work is to be done; the growth of the trees is not important. Community development programs by private groups see participation as

participation in program proposals as required by most donors seemingly makes the community a focal point. But it is also true that not all NGOs and governmental institutions take participation as a mere requirement to obtain logistics support. Many perceive it as a fundamental value that they have to follow

Then, is the community engaged in the decision-making processes of NGOs and Government? Is the community engaged from the planning phase? And more important, is the community engaged in the monitoring, including knowing about the budget?

There has been a large amount of work done by NGOs and governmental institutions in the last ten

years and rehabilitation programs, for example, often have nothing to do with the development of a community's discourse to bring back community independence in deciding on what (renewable) energy they need or the development of the local school children's discourse on their environment or environmental sanitation and public health. The community's basic needs in economy education and health are not integrated in conservation and other environmental programs.

One can trace some of the reasons. NGOs hold meetings with donors or governmental officials more often than pay a visit to villages. NGOs and the government are busy with proposals rather than holding



means to create facilities and infrastructure, which may not be what the community really needs.

Community Participation and Civil Society Movements

One cannot deny that community

years that is not in accordance with what the community 'perceives'. In many cases, the programs are in direct contradiction to the community's agenda. Policy changes often take precedence over everything else. This leads to a large number of unsuccessful programs. Conser-

versations with the community NGOs and the government are very serious with donor's evaluation program but are indifferent to the evaluation with the community. They are satisfied to implement the program according to the timetable and do not feel guilty about

making the community wait and wait.

One can say the NGOs and the government design the planning on behalf of the community. Their visions and missions are similar, speaking of returning community's sovereignty and empowering the community. Surely the visions and the missions can be the same, but have community's suffering and problems been reduced significantly?

Participation can also be perceived as togetherness. Then, the challenges faced by NGOs and the government should also be community's challenges. NGOs and the government's failures should be taken as the failures of all. Is this what is happening in the movement?

Building Participation

Two requirements are needed to build community participation: equity and transparency. Do all the involved groups share the same rights and obligations in achieving the goals? Is the community perceived as the one to be helped, and are NGOs and the government the more capable groups? Is there transparency in the planning, the implementation, the monitoring and the evaluation?

One big question for us all is how to take corrective measures to encourage full participation of the community, and how to place the community as the main actors, and not as spectators.

1. Being Neutral. Community's assistants should be neutral to

problems faced by the community. They should provide many opportunities to the community to address their own problems.

Being neutral does not mean defending the community. On the contrary taking sides often leads to community's dependence on NGOs and the government.

2. Becoming a Guide. Community's assistants should not position themselves as the all-knowing, the infallible ones. On the contrary NGOs and the government should throw out their opinions and dig deeper into what the community has in mind instead.

3. Believing in the community's potential. Feeling that they are equipped with much more information, NGOs and the government might think they know what is best for the community. The community is often perceived as a weak group needing assistance. In fact, the community is often not weak. On the contrary believing in the community's potentials would lighten NGOs and the government's workload as they believe that the community is capable to carry out the activities.

4. Educating processes. Too much spirit and confidence sometimes oversimplifies the resolution processes. It seems as if all problems can be solved through the same strategy. In fact, problems are a process. NGOs and the government should not deliver practical strategies to the community but long-term outlines for

resolving problems together

5. Utilizing the available resources (self-sustaining). Developing togetherness should build on the spirit to be liberated from dependence on other parties. Utilizing one's own resources for a given project is a formula to avoid dependence which makes the community powerless against intervention.

Ideas of Improvement

If progress cannot be made, is it wrong to get rid of "community participation" from NGO and the government's programs? It is better than paying lip service to community's participation.

This might be an immature decision. Positioning the community as the main actors is not easy. But, it is not easy as well to find a reason to avoid it. The returning of community's rights or community sovereignty would mean nothing if achieved through pseudo participation.

It would be better if NGOs and the government can lower their ego as the "owner" and the "controller" of a program. At the same time, the community should raise their position as an integral part of a program. The community should not be treated as a mere object.

It is true that making participation a strategy in community development requires long discussions. But we can if we want to, as long as we believe that community participation is indeed a need. ■

GDF/SDP/Prihatin 11/11/2010/Souraya



Semangat Baru

"In 1990, to be precise in August, when there was a commemoration of Scout Day we asked the Koran recital students of Ms. Sumiati to conduct social work."

In August, 15 years later, Siti Aminah and Sumiati typed the story in Sumiati's house in Semangat Baru hamlet, Alas Sub-district, Sumbawa. The years in between, turned into pages of a conservation drama.

"We will provide for food and drink, but we should bring mangrove fruits home. Kids, what do you think? All right, was the kid's reply. From then on, the kids became eager to go on a trip following the explanation why they should bring mangrove fruits home. Ms. Sumiati asked the kids to have a look at their eroded coast. When I was very young, there was a vast field here. It is gone now. Compare with the mangrove-covered area. Why? why? she said as she showed us the recreation site where the kids collected mangrove fruits".

As there were no mangroves left around the hamlet, they had to take a boat to the nearby islands. Then they asked the kids to grow the mangrove trees in the coastal area of their hamlet.

"The regular collecting and planting of mangroves brought a harsh response from the kids' parents. You ask our kids to do something bad and health-endangering! Planting mangroves here will only bring bad luck".

They were both about twenty years old back then. It was not customary for young women to hang around with kids.

"The kids who want to come should finish their house chores first. This is to persuade their parents to allow the kids to go on a trip. But, still we were often scolded and referred to as wild girls because we were doing what was commonly done only by boys."

Some mothers became less hard; some others even came with us.

"Later on, we are thinking of approaching the local leader (RT) about our desire to plant mangroves. We did it and received a positive response. He allowed his son to go with us. However, we were still scolded by other parents whose children secretly collected mangrove fruits."

To raise fathers' participation we arranged a picnic to the island where we collected mangrove fruits. The wives prepared the food, the husbands collected firewood and caught some fish. This recreational approach worked.

The planting area soon expanded. However, everything did not run as smoothly as we expected. Local fishermen tied their boats to any stands they found, including the weak young mangroves. Goats and buffaloes went about freely picking up all young leaves that could satisfy their hunger. In a visit in 2005, some local people said that the next time you come to help, please do not only pay attention to the planting; put up a fence around the planting sites as well.

"In the following years we tried to coordinate with the local government and related institutions to

explain to the community that the mangrove planting was to restore the function of the mangrove forest as erosion/abrasion prevention."

But incidentally they invited the Head of the Social Political Directorate, because he was the only person they had in mind. The Head turned out to be wise enough and familiar with conservation basics. Some local groups that were strongly opposed to the idea turned neutral.

"In the following year, we learned that Environmental Partner Fund (*Dana Mitra Lingkungan* – DML) Jakarta financed a one-year mangrove planting program, in 1992-1993. We were the field staffs of Nation Solidarity Organization (*Lembaga Solidaritas Bangsa* – LSB) then. We never thought of having funding. We kept on with our planting although we were repeatedly asked to pay off our debts by the kiosk where we owed money for our recreation."

Beyond their planning, the movement started to spread outside Semangat Baru. But, the spirit was not necessarily the same.

"Over time, teenagers became interested in our recreation. They came along, and we provided for the food and drinks. Then along came another NGO adopting our program and offering gifts such as free t-shirts, caps, and rice. Our teenage followers turned around and did not even acknowledge our presence."

In 1994 a senior NGO activist from Lombok asked GEF-SGP Indonesia to come to Semangat Baru. A week later they were asked to come to Mataram to draft a proposal.

"We never hear about proposals, let alone drafting one. But we managed to draft one – in handwriting – in three days."

LSB got funding for two years, from 1994-1996.

"We jumped with joy when hearing the news. Those who had been skeptical and cursing us gradually changed their mind when they saw that



2005. Sumiati and her fourth daughter visited the barren beach on the backyard of her hamlet, once a lush covered with mangrove. She had her first miscarriage as the result of working too hard under the sun, trying to rehabilitate the beach with mangroves.

our crazy work got some funding, and it was from Jakarta!"

National mass media published several reports on our struggle. In 1996 the Provincial Forestry Agency (Sub Balai RILKT) offered a cooperation to rehabilitate some 100 hectares of mangrove land. The rehabilitation would involve all hamlets in the village. The spirit aroused again. The planting area target was determined.

In the same year, SGP Indonesia provided other funding for a fishermen's group strengthening (e.g. to buy boats). Unfortunately, the group was dismissed due to internal conflicts.


"In 1997, UNO-UNEP awarded us for our motiva-

The participants of the Semangat Baru movement didn't have enough learning (knowledge and skills) during the early days of the program. Sumiati and Sili Aminah themselves were still learning then. No one was facilitating. Now, Sumiati takes care of her own family, still in Semangat Baru hamlet. Sili Aminah, once trading in used clothes and bread, is now working as a community facilitator in other areas. They said that they still wanted to work with communities like the old days. But, according to them, the program should start with housewives being engaged in seaweed post harvest management. "At that time we never thought of fulfilling basic needs."



tion for conservation. In 1998, we received an award from the Minister of Forestry and Estate Crops as the pioneer in conservation. In 1999 we received another award from the Governor of West Nusa Tenggara. But, we had never received any awards from the local regent."

After all the second phase funding from SGP

Indonesia was used up, the movement in Semangat Baru hamlet finally faded out. Nobody cared for the young mangroves. Slowly, they died. The beach, which was once turned into the front yard, now became the back yard again. 

Several years after the Semangat Baru movement was forgotten, mangrove rehabilitation projects were flourishing in the other villages and even in the neighboring sub-districts.



MANGROVE

GEF SGP Indonesia / Suraya ARI

Although only 3 percents of the total area of Indonesia's forest, Indonesia's mangrove forests are the world's third largest, with an estimated size of 3,450,000 hectares in 1996 (18-24% of the world's 17,500,000 hectares of mangrove forests).

Indonesia's mangrove forests, however, are disappearing at an alarming rate. The government of

Indonesia has passed some policies on mangrove conservation, but the enforcement is very poor. Mangrove forests designated by the government as protected areas are heavily degraded or completely gone. It would be no surprise if the real size of the forests is far below the official claim of the Ministry of Forestry which is the main institution in charge of forest management in

Indonesia.

Local communities – who are economically and politically weak – are often blamed for the degradation, becoming the target of the ruler's pressure. It is in fact domestic and foreign investors who must be held accountable for the large-scale conversion of mangrove forests.

Therefore, mangrove forest rehabilitation projects not only aim

at raising awareness among the communities about the significance of mangrove conservation but also showing (the government) that local communities are concerned about it. Communities are capable of mangrove replanting and maintenance. They can also use the benefits of good and healthy mangrove ecosystems for their economic improvement.

As one can learn from many successful – and unsuccessful – mangrove conservation projects, community's engagement in a project can lead to increased ownership and concern about mangrove ecosystems on which their lives depend.

Ownership and concern are the practical solutions to address poor monitoring and law enforcement – the major problems in Indonesia's conservation efforts.

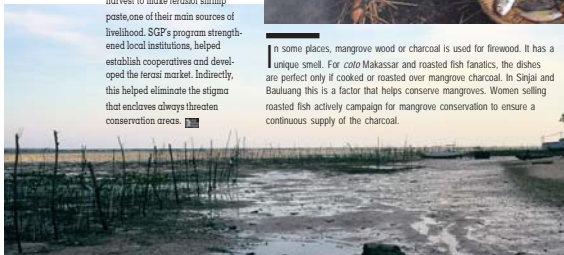
As Yayasan CINTA Alam (Yasinta) learnt from the community of Muara Ranowulu within Rawa Aopa

Watomohai National Park in South East Sulawesi, the presence of the community did not lead to conflicts as their activities did not adversely affect the Park. The community even conducted self-sustained mangrove restoration. They realize that mangrove forests are the breeding ground for prawns, which they harvest to make terasi shrimp paste, one of their main sources of livelihood. SGP's program strengthened local institutions, helped establish cooperatives and developed the terasi market. Indirectly, this helped eliminate the stigma that enclaves always threaten conservation areas.

CSK / LACIP / First events



In some places, mangrove wood or charcoal is used for firewood. It has a unique smell. For coto Makassar and roasted fish fanatics, the dishes are perfect only if cooked or roasted over mangrove charcoal. In Sinjai and Bauluang this is a factor that helps conserve mangroves. Women selling roasted fish actively campaign for mangrove conservation to ensure a continuous supply of the charcoal.



GEF SGP Indonesia / Suraya ARI

Threat to the community is an important factor that effectively drives the community to have concern about mangroves. The Bauluang coastline moved 50 meters inland from its previous position due to abrasion, before the community and Yayasan Konservasi Laut commenced a 2-year mangrove replanting project with US\$22,000 grant from SGP Indonesia.

The planting commonly starts with *Rhizophora*, a large number of *R. apiculata* and a few *R. mucronata* as the root systems of the species are unique: they break sea current and trap mud. Increasing mud sedimentation will enlarge the land into the sea. Then, other types of mangrove will be easier to grow.

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Mangrove logs are sold per piece with price depending on the diameter.

Before being sold, the logs are usually barked to get higher price. The bark is sold to a dye factory or used to dye nets

(the color is yellowish red). The bark is also used as firewood in charcoal industry.





Mangrove Rehabilitation Learning Center

Location

Rugemuk & Paluh Sibaji, Deli Serdang, North Sumatra

Partner

Yayasan Pengembangan Sumberdaya Pedesaan (Yapesda)

Project Duration & Costs

1994-1996
GEF SGP Indonesia US\$18,675
co-financing (in-kind) US\$8,508


Derived from the ex-post study by Suraya Aili in association with Department of Anthropology, the University of Indonesia.

Yapesda, a grass roots organization based in Pantat Labu Sub-district, had some experience from 1989 in mangrove rehabilitation. At that time, Yapesda received a Rp2 million funding from Dana Mitra Lingkungan. From 1994 Yapesda

was working intensively with the community of Rugemuk Village and Paluh Sibaji Village, with funding from SGP Indonesia.

The project started with the establishment of a community organization and approaches to the regional government. As a result, 100 out of 500 people of Rugemuk were actively engaged in the replanting 18-hectares of land. Now, only 10 hectares are left due to abrasion and other causes.

The planting was done on the land not under control of any fishpond companies. Domestic and foreign investors cleared most of the region in the 1980s, mostly for shrimp ponds. When shrimp business was suffered financial ruin in the 1990s due to plague and mismanagement, most of the ponds were abandoned or converted into traditional fish ponds, recreational sites and other business sites. The project demonstrated how community engagement could contribute to increased awareness

about the significance of mangroves as an ecosystem. The benefits of the conservation were directly felt by the local community strengthened their motivation to maintain the ecosystem. The community continues the planting and the maintenance although the project is over. This shows that the transfer of knowledge during a project is a key to ensuring project continuation. The community even keeps developing their knowledge and skills. Rugemuk and Paluh Sibaji have become mangrove natural laboratories frequently visited by NGOs and a wide range of communities. One of those that once came and learned there was the community of Semanga Baru Village in Sumbawa, which won the international Globe 500 Award. The local community's belief in the significance of mangrove deepened when this green belt protected the village from the December 2004 tsunami. According to local community, the tsunami that devastated much of Aceh had little impact on the village and the community. 

Community Based Biodiversity in Bintuni Bay

Location

Bintuni Bay, Irapua

Partner

Bintuni Bay Development Dialog Foundation (Yayasan Dialog Pembangunan Teluk Bintuni, YDPTB)

Project Duration & Costs

1998-2000 GEF SGP Indonesia: US\$ 10,234.38; Co-financing : US\$15,911.25 (swadaya & mitra)

Derived from the ex-post study by Arel Wicaksono in association with Department of Anthropology, the University of Indonesia.

At least 35% - 1.5 million hectares - of Indonesia's mangrove forests lie in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua. Of which, one third lie around the Bintuni Bay an area rich in biodiversity. Most of the mangrove forests in Bintuni have been harvested. The



GEF SGP Indonesia & Arel Wicaksono

exploitation, however, does not bring any benefits to local community. Timber companies strip off all the kinds of mangrove, from mokmov (*Sonneratia alba*) to the precious kambau. When a local community wants to build a boat, they have to search for the timber deep into the upstream forests. In addition to timber, the region is rich in economically valuable marine resources such as prawns, crabs and fish. It is also rich in mineral deposits such as gas, oil and coal.

The worsening situation and the accumulated despair of indigenous peoples that are deprived of their rights over natural resources serve

EX POST STUDY

as a basic argument for restructuring the existing institutional system.

The Community-based Sustainable Biodiversity Management Project in Bintuni Bay was a first step

towards a much larger framework of community-based biodiversity management development through local institutions. However, unclear role-sharing and weak institutional capacity made the project run in unclear direction and finally end up in vain.

Project Objectives

1. To produce a map of traditional use zones before and after the coming of commercial activities. Document traditional use pattern.
2. To formulate a community-based sustainable use action plan
3. To develop recommendations for community-based protected area management



Mokmov (*Sonneratia alba*)



GEF SGP Indonesia & Suraya Aili



4. To raise awareness among the local communities about the economic and social significance of the biodiversity and about the need to conserve mangroves. None of the above objectives were achieved by the end of the project.

Chronology

1990 A private company started commercial exploitation in the mangrove forests of Bintuni Bay and exported the logs to a Taiwanese bank note maker.

1995 Conflicts between the company and the local community. Customary meetings concluded with the establishment of Lembaga Masyarakat Adat Teluk Bintuni - LMATB (Bintuni Bay Indigenous People Organization), which in turn facilitated the establishment of Yayasan Dialog Pembangunan Bintuni Bay - YDPTB (Bintuni Bay Development Dialog Foundation), with the engagement of Bintuni Bay Community Association from Manokwari and Bintuni Bay Young Students Association from Jayapura.

1996 Asia Pacific Study Center of the University of Gajah Mada (PSAFUGM) and YDPTB conducted a research on community-based biodiversity management in Bintuni Bay

1997 YDPTB and PSAP-UGM, Konphalindo and Yayasan Pengembangan Masyarakat Desa - YPMD (Village Community Development Foundation) Jayapura held a workshop in Bintuni, discussing community-based biodiversity management in Bintuni Bay with emphasis being placed on mangrove

1998 GEF-SGP Indonesia approved the proposal and provided a grant and the project started. Konphalindo would help with project management and technical matters. Due to the short project duration compared with the complex problems in Bintuni Bay, SGP Indonesia was expected to become collateral to attract other sources of funding.

1999 The only program run by YDPTB was a revolving fund to the community, an activity which was not included in the proposal. Following up the indication that the project was not running smoothly SGP sent some staff to Sorong to find out the problems and seek some solutions. A discussion was held with PSAP-UGM, Konphalindo, YDPTB and Yayasan Nen Mas II (Tual, South Maluku). It was agreed that Nen Mas II would replace Konphalindo, upon consideration that Nen Mas II was much closer

to the site.

2000 NGO Perdu from Manokwari started to work with the indigenous people of Babo District, to replicate YDPTB program in Bintuni.

2001 Konphalindo's program officer conducted an assessment to Sorong and Bintuni Bay. It found out that the YDPTB's Director had never read the SGP-approved proposal. Also, no direction had been given to him by the foundation's founders before he was moved to Sorong.

In reply to Konphalindo's pressure for project accountability, YDPTB held a big meeting in Bintuni, using the remaining funds and with a help from the Regent of Manokwari. Instead of discussing the continuity of the project, the meeting discussed possibilities to establish a new district of Bintuni Bay (i.e. to split the existing district into two).

2003 A field survey was conducted to prepare Bintuni Coastal Resource Map by Proyek Pesisir / Coastal Project (USAID) of the University of Papua and the provincial government of Papua.

2004 The Second Coastal Project started, involving YDPTB. It was to continue the unfinished YDPTB's plan.

Survivors-based Redevelopment of Coastal Ecosystems and Livelihoods

Location

Lhok Bubon & Pucok Lueng, Meulaboh, Aceh

Partner

Yayasan Pengembangan Kawasan (YPK)

Project Duration & Costs

2004-2005

US\$50,000 x 2 lokasi, co-financing US\$454,273.72 (cash & in-kind)

Location

Awe Kecil, Simeulue, Aceh

Partner

Yayasan Banau

Project Duration & Costs

2004-2005

US\$25,000, co-financing US\$157,557.71 (cash & in-kind)

A year after the tsunami and earthquake in December 26th 2004 the impacts on environment and livelihoods are still large. GEF SGP Indonesia took a pro-active approach in visiting Pucok Lueng, Samatiga, West Aceh, in April 2005. A team of village planning facilitators and filmmakers was sent to help the community perform their development planning to reconstruct their village and livelihood.

YPK as one of the key partner organizations has worked in Samatiga region before the tsunami. The community trusted the

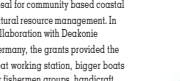
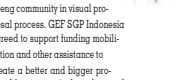
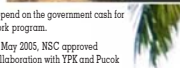
organization and this helped strengthen their motivation and voice in independent development and village economy efforts without damaging their environment. The GEF SGP team Indonesia facilitated YPK and Pucok Lueng community in spatial planning mapping and natural resource post-tsunami.

The reconstruction was not as easy and fast as it was predicted. As of late 2006, the community still lives in IDP's tents or temporary shelters. Trust and safety are very expensive commodities that need to be rebuilt by the community that lived through armed-conflict for the past two decades.

One of the main efforts is to design a Village Community Economy Institution (LEM) to organize the community socio-economy needs and environment. Pucok Lueng is one of the very few communities which was independently aware to do self-help schemes and not

depend on the government cash for work program.

In May 2005, NSC approved collaboration with YPK and Pucok Lueng community in visual proposal process. GEF SGP Indonesia agreed to support funding mobilization and other assistance to create a better and bigger proposal for community based coastal natural resource management. In collaboration with Deakonie Germany, the grants provided the boat working station, bigger boats for fishermen groups, handicraft station, golden threads weaving, capita, organic



GEF SGP Indonesia Aceh Workshop

farming and rubber plantation rehabilitation and agroforestry scheme. This model was based on a revolving fund with seven other villages along the coastal area of Pucok Lueng to Lhok Bubon.

The Pucok Lueng reconstruction would have been more effective if it was done in an integrated manner and included exchanges of perspective within their culture and with outsiders, and used participatory

planning, especially understanding environmental perspectives and reconstruction of community economy and way of living. The fund itself, however, could not guarantee the development goal would be achieved later on.

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Community-based Coral Reefs Conservation

Location

Hari Islands, Southeast Sulawesi

Partner

Yayasan Bahari (Yari)

Project Duration & Costs

2002-2003 US\$41,000


2004-2005 US\$50,000, co-financing US\$11,366 (in-kind)

Yayasan Bahari conducted a coral reef restoration program in Hari Islands one year before it received a grant from SGP Indonesia. During the first year, Yari did not inform the community about the economic aid package (credit for boat and motorcycles) to avoid biased engagement. During the establishment of the community group, the community only knew that they were going to rehabilitate the

coral reefs surrounding the islands. No wonder only few were willing to join the group.

"Coral cannot be planted" was the general opinion among the community. Only after a year did Yari tell the community about the revolving economic aid package. The first ten aid receivers were those who were most active in coral reef rehabilitation. The group also formed a joint venture (Badan Usaha Bersama – BUB) to coordinate the revolving fund for boats. BUB provided supporting facilities and infrastructure, collected members' fish catch, opened marketing networks and conducted price surveys at the local market.

Now the community of Saponda and Babo – the second inhabited island – no longer practice destructive fishing methods (dynamite and poison).

The neighboring villages have requested lessons on coral reef planting. Following the endorsement of a village regulation on sustainable coral reef utilization in Saponda Island, Yari coordinated with the Marine and Fishery Agency to put forward input for district and provincial policy making. Following the success, Yari was granted the second-phase grant from SGP Indonesia. 



SGP Indonesia and Yari Consortium

CORAL REEFS

Indonesia contains at least 14,000 coral reefs dispersed in more than 200 locations, with the total area covering 85,000 km² or 14% of the world's total reefs (Reefbase, 1997). During the last 50 years, however, they have been disappearing at an alarming rate.

Wilkinson (1998) said that Indonesia

sia's coral reefs would be completely gone in 10-40 years. Now some 40% of Indonesia's coral reefs are in "bad" condition (i.e. having less than 25% of live coral cover). Only 29% are in "good" to "excellent" condition (i.e. having more than 50% of live coral cover). There are four exploitation methods

that threaten these coral reefs: dynamite, cyanide, coral harvest and bottom trawling. Other threats come from waste pollution and sedimentation resulting from logging and land reclamation. Cesar (1997) measured the coral degradation from a management viewpoint. Dynamite fishing generated a profit of US\$15,000/km² of coral reefs, but also a loss

Coral Reefs Restoration & Aquarium Fish Trade

Location

Phase 1 : Les, Bali

Phase 2 : Les, Tembok, Serangan, Gilimanuk

Partner

Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara (YBN)

Project Duration & Costs

2002-2004 GEF SGP US\$45,007,

community US\$10,532, MAC US\$2,364

2004-2007 GEF SGP US\$50,000, Les

community US\$15,986, Tambak comm.

US\$20,581, Serangan comm.

US\$26,693, Gilimanuk comm.

US\$17,549, other donors US\$30,640

Many efforts have been made to curb coral reef and coastal degradation, from awareness raising to provision of alternative source of livelihood. Many have not lasted long due to enormous funding needs. However, the small grant program adopted by Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara in Bali survived the fifth year and shows continuous development despite its limitation and complexity.



GEF SGP Indonesia and Bahtera Nusantara

of US\$700,000/km² from the long-term decline in fishery sector (i.e. small fish being killed and no regeneration), as well as in tourism sector (i.e. no beautiful coral reefs to sell). The rehabilitation cost was enormous, too.

Most NGOs adopt similar approaches to coral reef management. Some directly drive the community to calculate the economic values of maintaining coral

reefs, as done by Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara to ornamental fish fishermen in Les, Bali. Yayasan Kalpataru in the Thousand Islands, and Kapoposang Consortium in South Sulawesi helped with the construction of ice factories, a facility that enables the fishermen to maintain the quality of the fish until they reach the market. Some others offer alternative sources of livelihood such as seaweed

This coral reef rehabilitation in Les Village, Bali, is intended to create more habitat for ornamental fish to Les utilizing socio-economic approaches.

A YBN activist came to Les pretending to be ornamental fish trader.

The ornamental fish fishermen group in North Bali used to practice cyanide fishing. The coral reefs in the region were heavily degraded due to the cyanide spread by sea currents.

The community was informed of the prospect of better business if the sold fish were not dead or stunned by cyanide. They learnt how to catch fish using small nets and to treat and transport fish in a better way.

About one third of the 2-year grant received by YBN in mid-2002 from SGP Indonesia was used to establish PT Bahtera Lestari (PTBL), an exporter of ornamental fish. Some of the shares were owned by Mina Bhakti Soansari' fishermen's group, Adat Village and Dinas Village. PTBL now has a monthly turnover of Rp30-60 millions.

The good relationship with the

cultivation and training for diving guides on expectation that the activities will allow the reefs to regenerate and fish to return.

Almost all are of economic approaches. While they are direct and rather effective as they touch the community's basic needs; strangely enough, the most common obstacle faced by most of SGP Indonesia's partners is marketing.





regional government yielded a contract that the Les community should apply the same program in other regions in Bali, including Serangan, near Denpasar; and Gilimanuk, which borders on Bali Barat National Park. Nine other regional governments are now finalizing coral reef rehabilitation and fish trade that can be applied by communities such as is done in Les and Serangan. The community of Serangan is now seeking a permits to harvest coral it has grown and to trade in and export live corals.



Commodity and Market

Demand for ornamental fish in Bali, particularly from export markets, is quite high. The relatively high turnover and profit margin have driven the community of Les to change their fishing method and packaging. The old method – dynamite and cyanide fishing – gives the fishermen dead or broken fish resulting in a low price. Having compared the result,

the community easily shifted to other practices. The location of the market also plays an important role. Bali is known as one of the centers for ornamental coral fish in Indonesia. Denpasar is an important spot for export. Ornamental fish accounts for 60% of the fish trade in Bali. Although the trade generates a nominal profit compared with tourism, it does not generate adverse impacts on tourism as destructive fishing does through its over-fishing, let alone dynamite and cyanide fishing that destroy the coral reefs. As well as protecting coral from cyanide, the project has successfully brought significant improvement to local economy and poverty alleviation.

Community Approach

Generally NGOs coming into a community are not equipped with adequate 'local language' skills. Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara (YBN) introduced itself and then interacted as an ornamental fish trader. Equipped with a sound background in the ornamental fish trade, it could discuss with the community about anything related

to ornamental fish, from the price to the fishing technique. This initial approach was carefully selected after consideration that the best communication could be built if it was directly related to the community's basic needs, the 'language' the community could understand most easily. The question for other projects is whether NGOs are prepared to speak the 'local language' and are capable of understanding community survival needs.

Cost of Living

One factor that impedes NGOs' facilitation and assistance is operational costs. YBN has proven to be able to address the problem as some of the profit generated is spent to support program activities. To run an 'enterprise' does not necessarily need a lot of resources. The community will naturally come to discuss about their business interests. No budget is needed for lengthy meetings or workshops. These community empowerment and environmental conservation efforts are still continuing, and YBN and the community are still learning together. ■

COMMUNITY-BASED COMMERCIAL COMPANY

Poverty among fishermen is often attributed to lack of entrepreneurship. Fishermen are only a single link at the chain of custody that grows in value to tens of times higher than their catch sale price. Fishermen don't have the capital to export their product. The profit margin at the local market often goes to the middle men and traders.

Several community-based trade schemes end in failure due to imbalanced competition with commercial companies, which move forward without being

hampered by the so-called 'for the community's sake' concerns. Few community facilitation/advocacy efforts start with commercial approaches, and, after they are rather successful, the benefits are not always distributed fairly to the community. This might be partly due to the failure of the trickle down effect theory.

PT Bahtera Lestari in Les, Bali, attempts to ensure fair profit-sharing by allowing fishermen's groups to own the shares, and thus allowing the company to be free from fulfilling social obligations outside its trade scheme. ■



Retiring with the People

Ahmad Boeshaq *

The development approach in all sectors throughout Indonesia, from seas to mountains, from remote villages to metropolitan cities, from trickle down approaches to participatory approaches, has been far from the concept of development based on community sovereignty. Communities have not become more independent. A "begging" attitude has become more common anywhere. Many communities can now only move if driven by money, even though it is to solve their own problems. What a miserable condition!

Partial ways of thinking has led to the wrong conclusion that economic poverty is the root of all the problems. This has led to the application of economic approaches in all development concepts.

Participatory spirit was then added

to the approaches creating the term "organising," which was poorly perceived as "forming organizations". This is the reason why there are so many the so-called "community organizations".

And now comes the so-called community-based approach, which is perceived as the next approach to participation. The results, however, are no better. The communities are still left alone and powerless.

Organizing should be the next step following institution forming, which is intended to create cooperation and mutual relationship. Mutual relationship, such as sincerity, understanding and trust is the essence of future organizations. Robert Putnam (1995) called it "social resource: "... While physical resource refers to human resource, and physical object refers

to individual wealth, social resource refers to inter-individual relationship - the social network and mutual and trust values that they build."

The social resource called "gotong royong" (mutual cooperation) that has long been established within Indonesia's communities has been deteriorated by money-oriented approaches. Mutual benefit in individual relationship is now determined by 'money'. In several places, in particular Jakarta, a social task to manage relationships between neighbours - which is generally the role of a neighborhood leader (RT) - has become paid work. People struggle hard for political positions. Money politics comes into play. All these have led to separation, not unity, within the society.

This condition has spread to other regions. Some people in an

isolated place ask the regional government to pay a certain honorarium to neighborhood leaders (RT). Money is seen as the problem-solver. The condition seems to get worse. Then, what should we do about it?

Answer: The communities should be encouraged to be able to make assessments and decisions for themselves with due consideration, both at present and in the future. If this has been done, maintaining the critical awareness is the next serious work.

Time-based 'project' approach (one or two years) within the donor-approved timetable is something impossible. While the deterioration has been going on for tens of

years, it is impossible to restore it in only a year. Only a Superman can do that: a victim screams for help and whoosh Superman comes and rescues him/her.

Target-based project and the large extent of fund absorption are among the causes of partial approaches. Empowering organizations are trapped in project completion efforts. Once the project is over, gone is everything. 'Investment' is not found in a project manager's vocabulary. Billions of

rupiahs have been spent, but the number of poor people is growing. Everything ends in vain.

Another problem comes from the fact that the project managers and their staff are based in cities, while the project site (i.e. community empowerment) is usually located in isolated areas. One can imagine how city people with their modern way of living and 'folder' mentality have to live in a place they have never imagined before. Only few are able to adapt to the highly contrasting way of life. Most staff can stand living in this new situation only for a week. They pay fewer visits to the site and finally do not come at all unless the donor comes for monitoring. And the stage is set, the local community is



treated with big smiles, and all other things are done to give an impression that the work is done properly. However, such attitudes cannot give birth to a movement.

As a matter of fact, community-level work can be done even without funding, as long as all the available resources allow. Empowerment concept should be perceived as an "investment" which will bear fruit when the target has been empowered. Knowledge and experience become the basis on which empowering work is based. Empowerment is not just nominal work.

Today I am sitting in a public stage house built by the local community in a recreational village in Bogor. The village is owned by the community and I have my own share in it. The houses are clean because they are commonly used for home stay programs. To achieve its goal, the space use is carefully

designed. All tourist services are managed by a business unit called "your village is my village".

My kid goes to a nature school, for free, because the school is subsidized by the rich, not by the community, to whom I

belong. The teachers are qualified because they are the villagers specially trained to train their own community. The school is part of the business unit called "outdoors school".

Head of Community Development Division of the Center for Regional Assessment, Planning and Development of Bogor Agricultural Institute. Lecturer of practical work in Participatory Regional Planning with PS-PWD and PS-PWL, Post Graduate Program of Bogor Agricultural Institute. SARLAW's staff is specifically dedicated to Community-based Regional Planning.

* Putnam, R. (1995) Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital; Journal of Democracy 6:1 Jan

° Social capital of community consists of institutions, relations, attitudes, and values that determine inter personal relationships and have important roles in social and economic development. Social capital was established for a long time in economics, sociology, anthropology, and politics.

The food is provided by self-sustained organic farms. The farms (rice, fruits, vegetables and cattle) are managed by a business unit called "healthy nutritional food", where my wife is actively engaged. The drinking water is free, coming from a natural spring in the mountain. Those who pay for the water are bottled drinking water companies, the loyal customers of a business unit called "clean water". Waste poses no problem at all as it is managed by another business unit called "my waste is my blessing", which is well-managed and profitable.

I have had all the assets needed to support me in my old age. I will not have to work hard to support myself then.

Suddenly, my kid cries, wanting to see his mother. I wake up from my dream. I wish I could be in the situation and conditions like those in my dream. Today, only a small part of my dream has been fulfilled. I wish all my dream could be fulfilled in ten years. At least, I have made my first small step, and am moving forwards, though the road ahead is not smooth. Somehow, I am quite sure. Amen. Social resources of a given community include institutions, relationships, attitudes and values that govern the members and play a role in the economy. Social development within community development framework has long been established in the fields of economy, sociology/anthropology and politics. ■



Local durian farm and production of liquid fertilizer from cow manure.

Conservation of Local Durian

Location
Mojoekembangan, East Java

Partner
Bima Lestari Sejahtera Foundation

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$6,500

Prior to 1997 most of the community of Mojoekembangan Village, East Java, depended on forests. Men and women collected firewood, young edible ferns, mushrooms, teak leaves, candlenut fruits, bendo and klwrek to be sold at the market. Entering the reform era, when large-scale illegal forest exploitation was rampant, a large number of species were completely

logged, including the local durian. Two local durian species – durian Mojo and durian Tawas – are well known for their thick meat, and unique smell and taste. They are better than other local durians. The project was intended to bring the durian back to the village, develop medicinal herbs, and make liquefied fertilizers out of manure.

In addition to SGP Indonesia's funding, funding also came from

the UK Embassy for a cow fattening program for women farmers. Cow breeding is closely related to durian cultivation and medicinal gardens. Each tree needs 10 kg of manure. So for 500 durian trees, 5 tons of manure are needed every three months. The organic fertilizers produced have been marketed as far as Bali.

The good market development cannot be separated from institutional capacity building. Yayasan Bima Lestari Sejahtera is the reincarnation of a community's self-help group (KSM) that received funding from DFID to preserve local culture. Within SGP Indonesia's project duration, they came back and started to seek other funding sources, including co-funding from the regional government for biogas development. ■

Semi natural Butterfly Breeding

Location
Bantimurung, Sulawesi Selatan

Partner
Institute of Community Research & Development (Institusi Penelitian & Pengembangan Masyarakat, IPPM)

Project Duration & Costs
2002-2003 US\$15,000

Mrs. Ali can only sell his commodity at the local Bantimurung market. He cannot export it because he does not have the permit. Licensed



GEF SGP Indonesia City Government

COMMUNITY'S PRODUCT MARKETING

"We call it the technology that understands you" is Nokia's marketing concept. Another company has a principle "Love he customers, not the product." Theodore Levitt, a marketing expert, distinguishes "sale" and "customers". Cosmetic producers Estee Lauder in 1991-1992 marketed special products for black women and succeeded in increasing its sales by 45%. Whether they realize it or not, ornamental fish fishermen conduct

the same process: market (demand) study. They only catch fish that sell good in the market, or even pre-ordered species. Similarly farmers consider what they will grow in a certain season. Too many crop by harvest time will drop the price.

Some producer communities have realized the importance of market information. Some grouper fishermen invested in communication radio in order to follow the price

fluctuations in the international market, or set up a network with other producers or other groups that can link them to the market or consumers.

On the other hand, many assisting NGOs have only one prime solution in assisting the community. Whereas rattan is abundant, they encourage community to produce rattan handicrafts. Whereas durian are not in demands, then teach the commu-

nity to make sweets and other preserved food products. Where as site is bestowed with natural beauty, then promote ecotourism. Most of GEF SGP Indonesia's partners adopted the same line of thoughts. A few has already integrated various marketing factors from the conception of products. In the case of Les village and Serangan, the assisting NGOs invested dearly in involving the community starting from its

awareness program and trust building exercises. However, there are some intervention process that skipped these important steps so that the objectives of the intervention failed to be materialized. In the latter case, the communities failed to independently analyze the relations of supply and demands. Fortunately there are growing evidence that show community's understanding regarding market demands and then was responded by assisting NGOs through capacity building programs. ■

buyers come and buy from him cheap. Abroad, butterflies are preserved not only as souvenirs but also decoration - a fashion: they decorate night gowns!

South Sulawesi endemic butterflies have been a community business in the region of Bantimurung for generations. However, the business is facing increasing threats from changes in land use, including the coming of a cement company into the area, which is one of the important karst regions in eastern Indonesia. Moreover, *Aristolocia* - the main plant that feeds the butterfly caterpillars - and many other plant species are becoming rare.

In 2000, Ali Mutaah, a local butterfly trader, made an initiative to raise butterflies which drew a lot of attention from other butterfly traders who used to rely on supplies from nature. Several individuals started to learn about the breeding methods. In 2003 they formed the Nirwana Group and then the Toalaka Group. Eight species of butterfly have been bred so far.

It turns out that only a few people continue this rather complicated business. Without additional capital, the groups can only supply 25% of the demand. Some group members have

been attempting to raise the butterflies (from caterpillars to adult butterflies) at home.

Half of the butterflies are raised from caterpillars caught in nature. Although it seems unsustainable, it should be understood that a butterfly's life is quite short; they die shortly after laying eggs.

Generally, between 2 and 5% of the butterflies raised are brought back to nature, mostly to national parks or almost impassable areas to avoid hunting.

Buyers of preserved butterflies come from faraway cities, such as Surabaya (East Java) and Bogor (West Java). Prices at producer/maker level are low. They are often pressed by middlemen or traders who allege that the breeders do not have the permits to catch or raise protected species. The absence of permits depresses the breeders. In fact, they operate in front of the entrance to Bantimurung National Park. Butterfly breeding not only conserves threatened species but also helps domestic and foreign

researchers study the species.

In this project, GEFSGP Indonesia's partner, IPPM, faced difficulties in developing the technology and local initiatives to increase the community's income and to have a policy dialog with all the stakeholders. ■

Eko Nugroho



FOREST

Indonesia contains the world's third largest tropical forest area after Brazil and Zaire, i.e. 10% of the world's total. Indonesia's forest ecosystems stand at 120 million hectares, comprising montane forests, lowland forests, and mangrove forests, each with their own biodiversity.

However, these exceptionally rich resources were heavily exploited starting in the early 1970s, and exploitation got worse up to the late 1990s. In 1994 the production of timber and its derivatives generated US\$5.5 billion. The formal forestry industry absorbed 700,000 workers. Deforestation increased as the

industry grew. An FAO study in 1990 showed that Indonesia had lost 56-74% of its forests in a span of 30-40 years. The deforestation rate multiplied from 300,000 ha/year in the 1970s to 600,000 ha/year in 1981. In 1990 it soared to one million hectares per year.

Economy-driven natural resource exploitation has deprived the community of their right to life. When the community has to give up its resources to the national interest, regional governments cannot maintain their bargaining power and this opens room and opportunities for investors to take control over natural resources.

So the fact is that forest ecosystems still suffer enormous loss while impoverishment of the community gets worse.

Many collective efforts have been made by a wide-range of communities. One was GEFSGP Indonesia's partner, who assisted the Dayak Meratus in South

Kalimantan to actualize customary forest management through the establishment of an information center to build communication with outside groups.

Such efforts will remain side initiatives however, if the roots of the problem - legal certainty, management planning, tenurial certainty, and the balanced relations among the government, the industry and the society - are not addressed. How much political will does the government and the other stakeholders have to support community collective efforts to manage forest ecosystems in a sustainable way? ■

Meratus Forest Biodiversity

Location

Loksado, South Kalimantan

Partner

Cakrawala Hijau Indonesia Foundation

Project Duration & Costs

2002-2003 US\$45,000

The region of Loksado in South Kalimantan Province is well known to contain the Indonesia's second largest types of bamboo, after the region of Simpang in West Java Province. This part of Meratus mountains is also well known for its orchid diversity

The biodiversity has been threat-

ened by land conversion. To date, the local community has been practicing rotational cultivation. While the cycle ranged from 7 to 12 years in the past, now it is shortened to 5-6 years or even 2 years. The change in the cultivation cycle indicates that the area under cultivation has been shrinking in the



For a hundred years, the Meratus Dayak have been selling their crops to downstream villages on bamboo rafts, which they eventually sell, too. Bamboo is one of the region's kinds of biodiversity. Since ten years, bamboo raft cruises has attracted a lot of tourists.

MONSOON FOREST

Monsoon forest or *kerangas* is one of the fifteen sub-types of tropical forests. Monsoon forests are found in eastern Brazil, northern Australia, western and eastern Africa and Asia. In Asia, they are found in India, Ceylon, China and Indonesia.

The biodiversity of a monsoon forest is lower than that of some other tropical forest types. Monsoon forests exist in regions with moderate rainfalls, with a pronounced dry season, and are characterized by shorter trees and a relatively thin canopy allowing other species to grow below, as if creating another forest of their own. The forest floor is usually covered by thick vegetation.



Indonesia's monsoon forests only accounted for 17,000 hectares out of the total 120 million hectares of forest (RePPProt, 1990). The distribution is restricted to Central Sulawesi, Muna Island, Nusa Tenggara and in some areas of Central Java. The endemic bird species inhabiting monsoon forests include Maleo (*Macrocephalon maleo*) in Sulawesi and Gosong bird (*Megapodius reinwardti*) in Nusa Tenggara.



last few years. The local community also has a collective forest, where they can collect firewood and other forest products. There are also sacred forests (*katuan*), where they cannot enter without permission from customary leaders.

YCHI implemented a project with the communities of Malaris and Haratai to improve the local economy by introducing alternative sources of livelihood to reduce threats to the forests, and at the same time promote sustainable non-timber forest product utilization. The project consisted of three programs: orchid cultivation, bamboo handicraft development, ecotourism development (bamboo-ratt river cruises).

An information center was established to disseminate forest conservation through orchid cultivation. Over time, the function has shifted to a customary meeting place. Now the local community gets angry if outsiders come and collect orchids from the forests.

Monsoon Forest Conservation

Location
Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi

Partner
IP A Awam Green

Project Duration & Costs
2000-2002 US\$15,000

The monsoon forest in Lore Lindu National Park lies 300-700 meters above sea level, with annual rainfall less than 200 mm. This dry condition ham-

pers the natural restoration of the degraded part, and even leads to permanently degraded areas. Therefore, the impact of land clearing, which is relatively high in the region, is worse than that in wetter tropical forests.

The local community practice a rotational herding system, intended to allow the grazing field time to restore itself. However, this traditional practice has been gradually overrun by large-scale grazing by outsiders as well as continuous land clearing that has destroyed the monsoon forest. There has also been an increasing sale of ornamental monsoon plants, such as *Cycas* sp. and *Draenaena* sp. At the outset, the ultimate goal of IP A Awam Green project was to rehabilitate and restore the monsoon forest. While the rehabilitation targeted the Park's buffer zone, which is the local garden forest, the restoration would plant typical monsoon species, such as

Java tamarine. The project was expected to serve as a model for monsoon forest conservation through community participation.

Threats to the ecosystem include hunting, illegal logging and harvest of certain ornamental species. The actors in these businesses are mostly outsiders. The local community cannot do anything to prevent the activities, let alone to impose any sanction against the actors, as they have not been engaged in the protection of the Park.

The rehabilitation and restoration are a temporary solution to the increasing degradation. To solve the continuous threats needs comprehensive approaches, including preventive measures. All the activities to protect the forest should be done in cooperation with the local community to enable joint learning process, work and accountability to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Building community participation was achieved through intensive, regular and informal village meetings. Community Organisers were selected from local figures to ensure the effectiveness of their work. The project was successful in building CO's capacity and forming CO's cadres, indicated by the smoothness of leader replacement. The implementing organization shared knowledge, capacity and roles with the community to achieve the goals together. The community made a conscious request to the implementing organization to facilitate local institution arrangement. If the assisting NGO did not have the resources, it invited resources from other related institutions, including Husbandry Agency (fish and cow) and the Park Management (for location and planting).

Pressure to fulfill the basic needs was one of the factors hampering the optimization of the rehabilita-

tion and the restoration. One good thing is that at least the project was able to prevent the movement of logging companies operating in Sibovi Village, which had been exploiting the forest by using the local community as loggers. At community level, new awareness was born about the monsoon forest ecosystem. The community understood that the forest surrounding their village was unique to their area. Gradually the willingness to take part in the management and the conservation of the forest started to grow. Relationships started to build among the communities of Sibovi Village, Uwe Lowe Village and Lompio Village, enabling more effective learning processes and cooperation in environmental issues and local institutional capacity building.



Pond Conservation

Location:
Gunung Kidul, Jogjakarta

Partner:
Nawakamal

Project Duration & Costs:
2003-2004 US\$2,000
2003-2004 US\$41,867

Musyawarah perencanaan kelompok warga dan sistem terasering di sekitar telaga.

The karst ecosystem in Gunung Kidul once contained more than 100 ponds, of which only about 15 survive; the others have dried up. In the dry season, community wells get dry too, so they have to collect or buy water from other areas. The

disappearance of the ponds is caused by soil erosion around the ponds, which have less and less trees. The communities living around the ponds are mostly crop farmers. The communities' high dependence on the ponds can be seen from the *Sedekahan Telaga*, a traditional annual ceremony in which the community gives offerings to the "keepers" of the ponds, the spirits believed to own/control the pond. The dependence, however, has made it easier to mobilize the communities to save the remaining ponds. The communities build terraced farms, stone fences and plant trees. The project is supported by the local husbandry, which provides manure, thus enabling the development of organic farms.

These are the basic considerations why SGP Indonesia provided a full grant. Other supporting reasons are that the project represents SGP's fresh water ecosystem operational programs.

From an institutional viewpoint,

Nawakamal is considered to have strong capacity to render assistance. In addition to having key staff with anthropological background, Nawakamal often conducts studies on rural communities. Nawakamal started assistance in Gunung Kidul a few years ago.



PLANNING GRANTS

Total Full Grants Planning Grants

The table shows incremental planning grants provided by GEF-SGP Indonesia in a span of ten years. Planning grants are intended to help community's groups or NGOs who are considered to have activities in compliance with GEF-SGP's criteria but do not have capacity to draft proposals.

The technical assistance provided by GEF-SGP Indonesia is not limited to administrative arrangements. To address partners' specific needs that are beyond

SGP staff's capacity, GEF-SGP Indonesia will seek outside resources. The specific assistance provided so far includes knowledge management, market

network development, organic farming, packaging, micro financial institution development, up to fund raising for programs' sustainability

	Total	Full Grants	Planning Grants
2004-2005	12	6 50%	6 50%
2003-2004	37	20 54%	17 46%
2002-2003	19	11 58%	8 42%
2000-2002	50	39 78%	11 22%
1998-2000	62	50 81%	12 19%
1993-1996	23		

Marsh Lake Conservation

Location:
Rawa Danau, Serang, Banten

Partner:
Halimunan Ecotourism Foundation

Project Duration & Costs:
2000-2002 US\$1,370

Rawa Danau is the last peat swamp ecosystem in Java Island. From a water management viewpoint, Rawa Danau is the source of fresh water for Serang, the capital of Banten Province; the recreational site of Anyer; and the industrial site of Cilegon. The management is poor, however, and sedimentation resulting from logging activities

has been filling the swamp. Following the planning grant period, Yayasan Ekowisata Halimunan - YEH (Halimunan Ecotourism Foundation) drafted a proposal for a full grant. It proposed community-based management initiative through sustainable benefit generation. The proposed activities included organic farming, handicraft and ecotourism.

YEH was considered to be strong in developing biodiversity and ecotourism, among others from its experiences in ecotourism development in Mount Halimunan. YEH had even probed the possibility to cooperate with a large private company operating in the region to promote ecotourism.

However, the full grant proposal was rejected by SGP Indonesia,

mainly due to the organization's weakness in the socio-political field. The proposal lacked good social preparation. In fact, due to its closeness to an industrial site, the communities living around the swamp were not as homogeneous as those around Gunung Kidul ponds, for example. Community organization was the entry point key that would determine the project's success.



Impact of Mercury to Health and Environment

Location
Sekayam, West Kalimantan

Partner
PPSHK Pancur Kasih
Project Duration & Costs
2002-2003 US\$2,000
2003-2004 US\$33,849

The rampant gold mining operations using Mercury to separate gold from impurities have increasingly polluted the environment and endangered human life. Done along the river-side, the operations accelerated mercury pollution via the water and river species consumed by humans. The possibility of mercury impacts on human health in West Kalimantan is very high.

In 2000 a lecturer with the University of Tanjung Pura stated that the water of the Kapuas River was no longer appropriate for drinking. Apart from the controversy generated by such a statement, it opened community's eyes to mercury pollution in Kapuas tributaries: Mandor, Landak, Sekayam, Sepauk, Sekadau, Melawi, Ketungau, and Siliat, where gold mining operations were rampant at that time.

In 2003 Yayasan Pancur Kasih in cooperation with the provincial government and several NGOs conducted research into mercury in

human body. The research revealed that the content was above the allowable standard set by F.A.O. The year before, Program Pengembangan Sistem Hutan Kerakyatan - PPSHK (Community's Forestry System Development Program), one of Pancur Kasih's program units, was granted a planning grant from GEF-SGP Indonesia, and used it to finance field visits and a series of community's workshops. As a result, the community became more aware of the danger of mercury and felt that

they should seek access to non-polluted sources of water. PPSHK aimed at encouraging the community's initiative to use and manage natural resources through introducing local species cultivation, providing diagnoses and free medical treatment for mercury victims, constructing fresh water canals, and rehabilitating ex-gold mining sites. PPSHK also attempted to build a community movement to reject mercury use - a proposal forwarded to the district government of Sanggau, and to disseminate information on the danger of mercury through bulletins, community radio and village meetings. SGP's full grant received by PPSHK in 2003 was used wholly for facilitation purposes (training on joint venture management, marketing strategies, annual meetings), and not for facilities building or provision of capital, in fear that the community's ownership would be diminished. The policy not to get engaged deeper in decision-making was adopted by PPSHK

based on its experiences in other project locations. PPSHK did not use the term 'local community organizer' (CO) as it often resulted in COs' overacting, which often brought contra-productive reac-

Management of ex-gold mines critical land

Gold mining operations were firstly done by outsiders. The operations included the felling of trees in riparian areas. The local community started to get engaged in the mining when the deposits had been running out and were considered non-economic by the outside operators. The river is still murky due to erosion, though not as murky as previously. No water plants and tree branches that harbor river fish can be found. All have been destroyed by the miners' pumps. It is the local community again who has to take the consequences of the operations. They have to rehabilitate bare, white quartz sandy patches, which are almost impossible to cultivate.



and asked whether only women benefited from the vegetable gardens, there was a change in the men's attitude. More men have joined the vegetable groups now.

tions. The CO roles were assigned to group leaders. In Terusan Village, for example, there were water user groups, vegetable groups, joint venture groups, etc. Organization training was held to

Training on Compost Making To Support Vegetable Garden Development

PPSHK's facilitators once identified imbalanced gender responsibility. Previously, the vegetable groups consisted of women only. The men argued that vegetable planting was too easy for them. But when confronted

with the fact that women also tapped rubber, the success of such an approach, indirectly show that external ideas

are hard to gain acceptance in the community and can even generate problems.

Although integral group work was new to the community, they showed high enthusiasm in the activities. Each community even took part in the book-keeping. It was no wonder so many members asked questions to their group leaders. One group leader handed in his resignation as he felt that his duties were too hard for him to handle.

On the other hand, there was an indication of a high level of democratization among the community. Replacement of group leaders (due to inappropriate attitude) was done in a democratic way. Organizational independence was improved. If someone needed facilitation in financial administrative management for example, he had to provide the facilitator's accommodation (transportation, consumption and honorarium).



GEF-SGP Indonesia PPSHK





GEF SGP Indonesia and Hompongpon

Living Fence & Jungle School

Location
Bukit Dua Belas National Park, Jambi

Partner:
Sokola

Project Duration & Costs
2003-2004 Planning Grant GEF SGP Indonesia
US\$2,000

2004-2005 Total US\$33,660, GEF SGP Indonesia
US\$23,455, Community US\$4,071, Sokola
US\$6,133, Technical assistance GEF SGP Indonesia;
project analysis, narrative and financial reporting.

For a very long time Orang Rimba who live deep in the Jambi jungle, Sumatra, have been labeled as primitive, unreachable forest nomads. Almost no clear descriptions of this tribe emerged within the public sphere, not to say photographs. Several communities live in the area. As hunters and gatherers, they move regularly, never stay for long in one place. This is one of the reasons why it has

VISUAL PROPOSAL

In March 2004, the National Steering Committee (NSC) of GEF SGP Indonesia approved a living fence development project of the Orang Rimba in Bukit Dua Belas National Park, Jambi, Sumatra, after viewing a visual proposal. The short film consisted of Orang Rimba from Makekal Hulu discussing and analysing simple ecological threats and their self-capacity to face the problem. Further, this mechanism was used to open wider opportunity for illiterate community groups and or groups who face a situation in which it is difficult to write a proposal according to donors requirements. The initiative was done with support from education practitioners, anthropologists and filmmakers. They first obtained thrust and permission from Orang Rimba. The overall



been difficult for formal education to reach them.

Sokola found out that it was not true that Orang Rimba do not care about the forest. They even have a concept of forest garden for sustainable use zone, Hompongpon, as a means to protect their last remaining forest and to support their livelihood. The Hompongpon or living fence is planted with food crops and rubber to preserve the subsistence economy and semi-nomadic way of living. Today, a solar panel provided by SGP still functions and is maintained to support the learning process at

night without disturbing the children's day time productivity as Orang Rimba and their forest monitoring activities.

The project was the continuation of a project supported by SGP's US\$2,000 planning grant in 2003-2004. Full grant was granted upon consideration that the partner was capable of identifying ecological threats, anticipating and handling ecological, social and economic problems, and supporting indigenous people's (Orang Rimba) efforts to manage their natural resources in a sustainable way. 




Key questions that guide the drafting of a visual proposal flowchart include:

1. What are the ecological threats and impacts faced by the environment and the community?
2. What capacity does the community have to address the threat(s)?
3. What kinds of collective efforts have been made? Which ones have been successful and which have not been?
4. If necessary, what kinds of external aids are needed and how?
5. How will the organization be held accountable and how will the reporting be conducted?
6. Mention the roles of each stakeholder to be involved in the activities (co-financing, visual report, technical assistance)

donors and other audiences.

Until 2005, GEF SGP Indonesia has facilitated and collaborated with indigenous communities producing visual proposals for:

- Gampong Awe Kecil community, the island of Simeulue, Aceh
- Gampong Lhok Bubon community, Samatiga, Aceh
- Gampong Pucok Lueng community Samatiga, Aceh
- Gunung Lumut community, East Kalimantan (facilitating editing)
- Orang Rimba community Jambi, Sumatra

A request for assistance in producing a visual proposal from Lamalera, Lembata (East Nusa Tenggara) was not followed up due to the institution lack of capacity. 

NGO's Position in Changes

Arief Wicaksono

"One sees the mote in his brother's eye and not the beam in his own eye."

Reading and Contemplating Context

One example of social, cultural and political change that is obvious but overlooked is the widespread and deep collapse of patterns of consumption.

The collapse impinges not only on rural people, who often become the target of protective efforts by NGOs or other forms of non-profit organizations.

Changes in consumption patterns occur without any resistance, without it being realized as the beginning of the domino effect that will lead to changes in other structures. The changes have so many entry points. Among farmers,

they enter through Green Revolution. Among fishermen, they enter through fishermen's motorization and Blue Revolution. Among the officials and governmental servants, they pounce, wrap, and trap through long term funding, be it binding grants or loans. Among university students, they enter through replication of the adopted curriculum, both in the form of intensive technical assistance by industrial countries' experts and scholarship programs. And among activists, they enter through large-scale funding wrapped in corrective and constructive discourses and struggle. These exclude the adoption of new, modern, and consumptive ways of life that are broadcast 24 hours a day via

media.

The portrait has made intensive efforts by NGOs against the economic and religious growth adopted by the ruling regime a paradox: to encourage changes through adoption of concepts and models on a long decayed and rotten medium. It is no wonder to see that despite the seemingly more sophisticated initiatives, the crises keep enveloping people's daily lives.

Absence of Sovereignty as Key Word

Huge foreign loans since the era of New Order Regime start the story of Indonesia's dependence on donor countries. The early 1970s saw rampant protests and demon-

stration by university students in the early 1970s - the expression of sensitivity of a certain community's elements to the ruler's unfavorable policies. The protests and demonstrations represented the expression of rage against the new 'religion' called economic growth, which was believed by the New Order's economic technocrats would bring the trickle-down effect to the whole nation. All these movements ended up in the state's suppression of critical voices, driven by university students, through the repressive NKK (Campus Life Normalization), followed by the forming of BKK (Campus Coordination Body) in 1978.

Such suppression did not stop the urges and the suppressed concerns. Environmental movement emerged in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, partly driven by nature lover groups, research students' organizations and religion-based groups. NKK and BKK did not touch university students engaged in research, religion, sports, art and nature adventures.

Expeditions to various places throughout Indonesia opened these youth's eyes to and offered opportunity for them to see directly the injustice imposed on the people in the name of national development. The youth working in villages sought alternatives that enabled the people to enjoy the development, such as economic development, fresh water service, applied technology etc. The suppressed critical attitude continued to find its

path out.

It was during the era that environmental organization started to flourish, all referring to Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI). Pressure at domestic level is usually accompanied by the global struggle in the field of ecology and sustainable development. The era was colored by the birth of many NGOs orientating towards social welfare and community's empowerment. Despite the diverse perception and movements, NGOs have something in common: they are struggling against poverty, injustice driven by the development, and environmental degradation.

Indonesia's NGOs keep increasing their critical attitude towards the state's policy and governance, from



the polite and compromising approaches to the litigation approaches. With due respect to the true critical attitude grown among NGOs, one cannot ignore the enabling factors in the form of funding support, both private and country funding, from industrial countries in the effort to bridge the gap between north and south countries. Bilateral and multilat-

eral funds from international development organizations have flooded Indonesia's NGOs since the 1970s, wrapped in various thematic discourses and programs.

It should be noted that during the same period, in particular from the mid-1990s, foreign funding required the cooperation between the state bureaucracy and NGOs. Community engagement and women's empowerment have since become the central themes of international funding. The government, pressed by the donors, accepted the funding halfheartedly indicated by its nominal sustainable development, conservation and community's engagement policies.

Now comes the second paradox. NGOs, or more popularly called self-reliant organizations, seem to be completely independent from state intervention. Then, how independent are they from donor's intervention? And what are the mandate-link and relational pattern between NGOs (grantees), and the grantor? And, more importantly what are the transaction

and mandate-link modes between the NGOs and the beneficiaries (the people), who are trapped in the vortex of the sustainability crises? ■

Since 1993 GEF -SGP Indonesia has granted more than US\$3,000,000 grants to 207 projects of 188 organizations

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Leak Symptom

Leak Symptom

1. **Typazan Trust**
Setting up Website for Knowledge Management as Follow-up of Coastal Planning and Management for Post Tsunami Aceh Recovery.
2003-2004. US\$5,000.
2. **Area Development Foundation (Tayazan)**
Postquake Rehabilitation, WPK
Natural Resources Rehabilitation and Management.
Uoi Buben, Samatiga, Aceh, Sumatra.
2004-2005. US\$35,000.
3. **Sarasa Foundation**
Rehabilitation of Natural Resources and Sources of Livelihood Post- Tsunami and Earthquake
Awe Keli, Simelae, Aceh, Sumatra.
2004-2005. US\$35,000.
4. **Center for Regional Planning & Development Study - IPB**
Post-Tsunami Documentation and Discrimination on Panglima Laut Planning
2003-2004. US\$10,000.
5. **Lembaga Hubungan Antar Panglima Laut**
Marine Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Post-Tsunami
Welik Island, Aceh, Sumatra.
2003-2004. US\$17,000.
6. **Forum LSI Aceh**
Green Generation & Expo: Practices for the Reconstruction of the Tsunami-Wrecked Areas
Acheh, Sumatra.
2004-2005. US\$55,000.

Bolt

Bolt

- 1. **UBLI**
Honoring River Banks with bamboo trees
The Ayeyar Kawthail
1999-2001 US\$5,000.00
- 2. **Phuayang Kyau Foundation**
Optimizing Civil Land Management
1993-1994 US\$21,700
- 3. **Bahara Nussara Foundation**
Restoring Great Reef Ecosystems and
Strengthening the Community in
the Ayeyar Kawthail
Fish Trade to Improve Fisheries Well-
Being
2002-2003 US\$45,000.00;
2004-2005 US\$50,000.00
- 4. **Winn**
Health and Energy Sustainability
Through Village Ecotourism Network
2002-2003 US\$35,000
- 5. **PPHRI Bank**
Protecting Southeast Asia's Sanctuary
for Wildlife and Forest Biodiversity
2000-2002 US\$1,700,000
- 6. **EDF Sustainable Program**
Planted High Quality Commercial
Value Species in Limbing Jang and Inca
Village (1 hectare) and to Support
Deforestation
2000-2002 US\$1,000
- 7. **Mekong Program Development Bank**
Developing of Balance River Rehabilitation
Plan
2000-2002 US\$1,000
- 8. **Asian Natural Bank**
2000-2002 US\$1,000

Bamboo Bird's Nest

Bamboo Bird Mud

- Plant Conservation.**
1993-1996. US\$17,356.
- Project Location**
Bazilew, Jawa
1. **Nyusan Elowata Haliman Community-Based Marsh Lake Conservation.**
2000-2002. US\$1,300.
2. **Lembaga Alam Ripika Indonesia Community-Based Jawanese Single-Horn Rhino and Tropical Forests.**
Using Kalam Nasional Park.
1993-1996. US\$25,728.
3. **Biological Science Club Etnobotanical Conservation.**
Gunung Haliman National Park.
1993-1996. US\$41,262.
4. **BO Information on Conservation Application**
Using Kalam Nasional Park.
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Developing Community-Based Forest
Management Model.
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2. **Adaptive Water Land Community-Based Care**
Conservation and Income Improvement.
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3. **WEL**
Reducing Toxic Industry Impacts through Waste Recycling and Productivity High Potentials Award.
1999-2001. US\$7,671.
4. **HiTap**
High Technology Small Business Workshop.
2002-2003. US\$14,000.
5. **Developing Local Variety Displays to Encourage Impaired Systems.**
2002-2003. US\$14,000.
6. **50Kmph/hrs**
Roster Meeting to Map Interests/Activities and Seek Cooperation Opportunities.
2002-2003. US\$2,947.
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8. **Partner Workshop 10+ – GEI-SCP**
Initiatives Partnership With Communities to Address Environmental and Socio-Economic Significance through Local Actions.
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9. **Mira Bhatta**
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2000-2002. US\$30,000.
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- Living Fence and Jungle School: Protecting
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2003-2004. US\$44,338.
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1998-2000. US\$6,793.
- Pico Hydro Power Plant and Village
Community Economic Empowerment.
2000-2002. US\$25,000.
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Proposal Development on Karilil Deer
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7. Cimangrove Network
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1998-2000. US\$9,102.
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1998-2000. US\$34,258.
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2000-2002. US\$2,913.
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2004-2005. US\$2,200.
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2000-2002. US\$4,500.
- Project Location:**
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Soalok Abstraction Prevention Program.
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Solution and Community Welfare.
2004-2005.

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 4. **Local Government Participation in Strategic Planning on Sustainable Coastal Development**
2003-2004. 0525X.000.
 5. **Kampung**
Study on Rice Production with Bengawan Solo Irrigation Scheme
2003-2004. 0525X.004.
 6. **ELW**
Strategic Planning on Dilling National Park Management
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 7. **Jaringan Penggerak Marga Desa**
Strategic Planning on Sustainable Environment
2003-2004. 0525X.000.
 8. **Forum Ekonomi Aktivitas**
Dilling National Park
2000-2002. 05257.002.
 9. **Gen**
Strategic Planning on Alternative Livelihood for Local Hunter and Carver
2003-2004. 0525X.000.
 10. **PPP**
Local Species Systems Conservation as Alternative Food Source
2003-2004. 0525X.061.
 11. **LITP**
Market Development for Embolobatrani
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 12. **LPM**
Community Capacity Increase for Sustainable Rice Farm Development
2003-2004. 0525X.000.
 13. **Locman**
Development of Farming for Environment Conservation
1999-2000. 0525X.299.
 14. **Community-based BioEconomy**
Conservation through EcoTourism
2000-2002. 0525X.500.
- Project Location:*
East Java
- 1. CH**
Organic Waste Composting
- 2. BMS**
Community Engagement in Community-based Forest Management through Local Durian Species Conservation
- 3. Tetrata**
Cultural/Wildlife Conservation
Bromo-Semeru Tengger National Park
2003-2004. 0525X.005.
Bromo-Semeru Tengger National Park
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Critical Land and Energy Conservation for Community Welfare.
2003-2004. US\$2,000.
5. **Paguyuban PEM Kuli Manu Selatman**
Community Empowerment through Riverine Management.
2003-2004. US\$27,000.

6. **Indo**

- Community Capacity Building in Biodiversity Enrichment Program through Integrated Farming.
2003-2004. US\$2,000.
7. **KON PAKSA Solidman**
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1998-2000. US\$2,341.

8. **Korosiwara Selatman**

- Increasing the Micro Hydro Power Capacity to Support Local Economic Development.
2000-2002. US\$27,388.
9. **Korosiwara Alun Indonesia Lestari**
Development of Bioregional Strategic Management Plan.
2003-2004. US\$2,000.

10. **Indonesian Community Empowerment in the Rehabilitation of Local Scale Gold Mining**

Strategic Planning of Bioregional Management in Four National Parks.
2004-2005. US\$3,000.

11. **SPHMA**

- Women Participation in the Utilization of Neotropical Area for Biodiversity Conservation.
1999-2000. US\$5,837.

12. **ECN Bina**

- Conservation of Medicinal Plant Species with Demonstration Plot and Community-based Genetic Plasma Collection.
1999-2000. US\$1,000.

13. **MAI**

- Optimization of Community-based Agroforestry Management.
1996-2000. US\$15,039.

14. **Gra Bagan Indonesia**

- Organic Waste Composting.
2000-2002. US\$28,474.

15. **Calabawa-Hijau Indonesia**

- Local Community-based Sustainable Forest Management.
2000-2002. US\$23,417.

16. **Kalianda**

- Micro Hydro Power Plant Development, Education for Forest Conservation Monitoring Forest Product Marketing.
2000-2002. US\$45,747.

17. **Facilitating the Development of Women and Energy Project Workshop**

- 2000-2002. US\$27,388.

18. **Indonesian Community Empowerment in the Utilization of Neotropical Area for Biodiversity Conservation**

- 1999-2000. US\$5,837.

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1998-2000. US\$3,318.

6. **Paku LPMO**

- Local Reclamation to Increase Water Penetration and Biodiversity Conservation.
2000-2002. US\$24,171.

7. **Bulan Karyo Banaa P**

- Resources Management through Ecotourism Rehabilitation and Water Management.
2000-2004. US\$3,450.

8. **PPSMB Puncak Kaki**

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2000-2002. US\$2,881.

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2003-2004. US\$2,000.

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18. **Indonesian Community Empowerment in the Utilization of Neotropical Area for Biodiversity Conservation**

- 1999-2000. US\$5,837.

7. **Yaswan Tembak Maris**
Development of Local Fruit Garden to Support Ecotourism.
1998-2000. US\$29,710.

8. **PSNIB**

- Community-based Economic Support to Decrease Local Community's Dependency on the Natural Forest.
1998-2000. US\$8,092.

9. **YUMIP**

- Conservation of Local Plants for Traditional Handicraft through Sustainable Farming for Biodiversity Conservation.
1998-2000. US\$38,504.

10. **PPSPDM**

- Sustainable Management of Local Gaharu Species.
1998-2000. US\$28,858.

11. **JEMP**

- Alternative Livelihood for Fisherman.
1993-1996. US\$4,703.

12. **LPWPU Wamabalar**

- Community Empowerment in Interactive Zone Management.
2000-2002. US\$21,000.

13. **Yaswan Tembak Maris**

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