

Policy Paper

The Development of Social Forestry in Indonesia: Policy Implementation Review, 2007-2019

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Abstract

The phenomenon of sustainable forest management failure in Indonesia faces the reality of incompatible economic, social, and environmental approaches. Conventional forest management always assumes that good forests are only managed by the government through concession permit policies to large capital owners that are top-down and accompanied by a minimum condition of community involvement, which should be a key factor. Learning from the experience, Indonesia began to see the concept of social forestry as one of the efforts in the progress of a more sustainable development. Social forestry positions that the party that feels the greatest success or failure from forest management is the community around the forest itself. Communities must obtain the greatest access and incentives to manage forestry businesses as a source of life while preventing damage. In recent years, the agrarian reform program through social forestry is a breakthrough government program that is becoming increasingly demanded by communities. The rights to manage their surrounding lands in accordance with ancestral local wisdom are expected to be able to answer economic and ecological challenges. This paper specifically presents the development of social forestry and its issues and recommendations in the context of national development in Indonesia. The ecological harmony between humans and nature is a consideration of the importance of social forestry as a program to be continuously supported by the government, as well as to prioritize economic aspects in the principle of sustainable development.

Keywords: : Social Forestry, Policy, Development, Achievement

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1. Introduction

The forestry sector of a developing country was once one of the drivers of economic development as well as a life buffer controlled by state management with minimal access for rural communities (Peluso & Poffenberger, 1989). Indonesia has approximately 125.9 million hectares (ha) of forest area (Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, 2019a). In fact, looking through previous policies covering 42.25 million ha of forests managed by the private sector and community, the portion has been very uneven, with 95.75 percent being through the private sector and only 4.14 percent of the forest area provided for and utilized by local farmers or microbusinesses (Kuncoro *et al.*, 2018). The next fact is that the degradation of the environment in the form of deforestation is not only a social problem for the Indonesian local environment, but has already become a serious national or even global problem (Arif, 2016). As has been known, in the period from 2000-2005, Indonesia was once the country with the fastest rate of deforestation in the world, with 1.8 million ha of forests destroyed per year. The rate of forest destruction was 2 percent every year or equivalent to 51 square kilometers per day. The phenomenon of the failure of sustainable forest management in Indonesia faces the reality of incompatible economic, social, and environmental approaches.

Conventional forest management always assumes that good forests are only managed by the government through concession permit policies to large capital owners that are top-down and accompanied by a minimum condition of community involvement, of which the latter should be a key factor. This condition seems to ignore the ecological theory conveyed by environmentalists so far, in that good interaction among components in the ecosystem becomes important. According to Miller and Spoolman (2015), the main idea of environmental science involves the interaction between organisms or living things with each other and with their environment. This interaction involves ecosystems with organized components as abiotic and biotic factors. The environment is defined as the region of the boundary of economic activity, which influences the development of life within it (Common & Stagl, 2005). Therefore, in order to achieve sustainability, integrative efforts are needed on conservation priorities to reduce environmental degradation without ignoring the welfare of the community (Barendse *et al.*, 2016). This is in line with the mandate of Article 33 Paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945) which states that the earth, water, and natural resources contained therein are used for the greatest prosperity of the people. Furthermore, regional autonomy is one of the foundations of democratization that has the ultimate goal of realizing community welfare (Hirawan, 2007). The distribution of the “welfare pie” is not from top to bottom, but that the wealth of the regions flows to the center. This is a form of the results of neo-classical economic theory practices that gave birth to income inequality (Bonet, 2006).

In recent times, several countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have given wider recognition to local communities in order to provide opportunities for improving welfare through sustainable forest management (Firdaus, 2018). However, this initiative has not been evenly distributed in all regions. Learning from the experience, Indonesia began to see the concept of social forestry as one of the efforts in the progress of a more sustainable development. Social forestry changes fundamentally the previous practice of forest management, where the party that feels the greatest success or failure in forest management is the communities around the forests themselves (Kumar, 2015). Experience proves that social forestry will succeed if the community gets the greatest access and incentives to manage the forestry business as a source of life while preventing damage. This paper seeks to present the development of social forestry, as well as issues and recommendations in the context of national development planning in Indonesia. The ecological harmony between humans and nature leads to the consideration of the importance of social forestry as a program to be continuously supported by government, as well as to prioritize economic aspects in the sustainable development principle.

2. Methodology

This paper utilized literature study through referencing relevant theories and information-based policies of forestry and social forestry. The utilized secondary data were obtained or collected from various existing sources as books, documents, and applicable laws and regulations related to social forestry, both in the context of Indonesia and the world. Analysis of the gap or suitability between targets and realization was used as a basis for providing research recommendations in addition to the problems or obstacles encountered in social forestry policy in Indonesia.

Development of Social Forestry in Indonesia

a. The Concept of Social Forestry

According to Westoby (1989), social forestry is forestry that has the aims of creating flows of production and recreation benefits for the community, which in general involves forestry activities that guarantee the smooth production of benefits and pleasure to a community without discrimination, whether on publicly owned (state) land or private land. Meanwhile, Tiwari (1983) defines that social forestry has in principle the objective to meet the basic needs of the local population from the forest, such as fuel, fodder, food, timber, income, and environment. Tiwari put more emphasis on the fulfillment of daily needs of the local community. Wiersum (1984) differentiates four operational forms rather than social forestry, which are (1) Forestry, where forest management activities are designed with professional management with a high level of control over forest areas (lands); (2) Village Forestry, where the management of forest and tree resources are carried out by unprofessional (unskilled) workers on both participating public (state) land and private land; (3) Communal or Community Forestry, which is Village Forestry that is managed together by a community; and (4) Farmer Forestry, which is a form of Village Forestry where the responsibility of management lies on farmers themselves.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry itself defines social forestry as a system of sustainable forest management implemented in state forest areas, or forest rights or customary forests implemented by local communities or customary law communities as the main actors to improve their welfare, environmental balance, and social cultural dynamics in the form of Village Forests, Community Forests, Community Plantation Forests, Customary Forests, and Forestry Partnerships (Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Regulation Number P.83/MenLHK/Sekjen/Kum.1/10/2016).

b. Regulation of Social Forestry in Indonesia

An important historical moment regarding the role of the community in social forestry in Indonesia was the enactment of Law No. 41/1999 replacing Law No. 5/1967 on Forestry, which is considered to be less attentive to the rights of people because the authority to manage forests, including control over planning, administration, exploitation, and forest protection, was in the hands of the central government Indonesia. Law No. 41/1999 is more attentive to community involvement in forest management through a new forest management model based on empowerment of forest communities. Simply put, the management of state forests has now shifted to Community Forests. The law also specifically mentions about Customary Forests as State Forests managed by original inhabitants. Development of social forestry in forest management is no longer from the top down, but now from the bottom up by focusing on the participation of local communities. If this can offer opportunities for better forest management and provide incentives for efficiency and sustainability, more promising results will be achieved.

Law Number 41 of 1999 on Forestry (Article 3 Letter d) mandates that social forestry is intended to increase capacity-building development and empowerment of the community in a participatory, equitable, and environmentally friendly manner in order to be able to create social resilience and economic resilience to the consequences of external changes. Social forestry is closely related to the agenda of community-based economic independence, which is a program that has the aim to realize community welfare by increasing the incomes of communities around forests through providing access to conflict-free social forestry management and the support of stakeholders, as local governments, Forest Management Units (KPH), Non-Government Organizations (NGO), and business entities. Social forestry is expected to be an enabling condition for the process of decentralizing forest resources management at the province level, involving the parties. Social forestry is expected to prove itself as a unique model of forest management in Indonesia: it is more humane and equitable, strengthens the democratization process and community cooperation, and provides balanced and proportionate benefits among economic, ecological, and socio-cultural interests.

Approximately 37% (10.2 million) impoverished people live surrounding forest areas in Indonesia (MoEF, 2017). Social Forestry began to be advocated since 1999; the condition of Indonesia that was still uncertain after the Reformation diverted away attention from this big agenda. In 2007, the Social Forestry Program began to be implemented, but less than seven years later in 2014, the program stalled. The

Ministry of the Environment and Forestry noted that during the period from 2007-2014, forests covered by community management access only had an area of 449,104.23 ha. After this period, acceleration was carried out, and less than 3 years after the creation of the Working Cabinet (Kabinet Kerja), 604,373.26 ha of forest area was established, legally opening access for community management.

Since 2016, a new, more equitable, and more simplified social forestry policy was issued by the Minister of the Environment and Forestry through Minister of the Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P83 of 2016 on Social Forestry. The implementation of social forestry policies after 2016 can be said to be far better than the concept of social forestry in previous years. This is especially because the location where a social forestry permit is granted can be in areas of not only production forests and protected forests, but also conservation forests.

Reform of regulatory and institutional arrangements of social forestry in Indonesia can be differentiated as the eras before 2016 and after 2016. This is given that when President Joko Widodo was elected in the 2014 general election, massive changes were made in relation to social forestry as part of his directive to develop the country from peripheral areas. The seriousness of the acceleration and improvement of social forestry targets is strengthened through a) setting a target area of social forestry covering an area of 12.7 million hectares and b) upgrading the status of social forestry responsibility from 2015 from previously being under work units equivalent to Echelon II to become Echelon I level (Directorate-General) at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. These institutional changes and targets required the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry to improve internally and to issue regulations that support presidential directives. The target area of social forestry covering an area of 12.7 million hectares was also set as a national target in the 2015-2019 National Middle-Term Development Plan (RPJMN). The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry took a little over a year to finalize the concept and issue important regulations in the form of Minister of the Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P83 of 2016 on Social Forestry. This regulation became a new milestone for the development of social forestry in Indonesia, especially in supporting efforts to accelerate sustainable forest development. The fundamental differences between the eras before 2016 and after 2016 are explained in Table 1.

Legal access to forest area management is divided into five management schemes. Village Forests are state forests for which the management rights are given to village institutions for village welfare. Community Forests are state forests that are mainly utilized to empower local communities. Community Plantation Forests are forest plantations in production forests established by community groups to increase the potential and quality of production forests by applying silviculture in order to ensure the preservation of forest resources. Customary Forests are forests within the territories of indigenous communities. The last scheme, Forestry Partnership, involves a cooperation between local communities and the forest management, the holder of a Forest Utilization Business License, forest services, the permit holder for a lease of forest area usage, or the holder of a business permit for an industry of primary forest products.

Table 1. Reform of Social Forestry Regulations in Indonesia

	Before 2016	After 2016
Form/Scheme	Community Forest, Village Forest, Forestry Partnership, Community Plantation Forest (<i>Hutan Tanaman Rakyat</i>)	Community Forest, Village Forest, Forestry Partnership, Community Plantation Forest (<i>Hutan Tanaman Rakyat</i>), Customary Forest
Location	Production Forest, Protected Forest	Production Forest, Protected Forest, Conservation Forest
Establishing Authority	Divided among Ministers, Governors, and Regents	Minister, but with authority represented by the governor under certain conditions
Cause of Action	Each forest management scheme is differently regulated	Arranged in a special regulation with additional customary forests
Application Procedure	Complicated and slow	Simple and fast

Source: Firdaus, 2018

Social forestry is now a national program that has the aims to achieve economic equality and reduce economic inequality through the three pillars of land, business opportunities, and human resources. Social forestry is also a legal object for communities around forest areas to manage the 12.7 million ha of state forest areas. Historically, social forestry is a national priority of Indonesia for rural development and poverty alleviation in areas surrounding forests (Rakatama & Pandit, 2020). Of the various types of social

forestry patterns in Indonesia, the pattern of Community Forests is a popular one. This pattern is simply defined as state forests with the main purpose to empower communities. Parties that can apply for this pattern are chairpersons of community groups, chairpersons of joint forest farmer groups, and chiefs of cooperatives. Applicants who are given approval will then obtain a business permit for community forest utilization. Meanwhile, the forests that can become Community Forest objects are production forests and protection forests.

c. Achievements of Social Forestry Policy in Indonesia

In general, during the period from 2015-2019, the proportion of forest area utilization for communities increased dramatically from 1.24 percent to 54.96 percent. Even so, the government still has work to do for achieving the 2015-2019 National Middle-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) target for social forestry. The government has targeted an increase in community management access to 12.7 million ha of social forests. Even in the fourth year of the implementation of the RPJMN 2015-2019, the progress of achievement is still low and is not expected to reach 100 percent until the end of the fifth year of the RPJMN 2015-2019.

There is still the remaining amount of ten million ha to achieve the social forestry target. The achieved progress of the 12.7 million ha target set in the RPJMN 2015-2019 was 2,625,520.04 ha or 20 percent of the target as of April 22, 2019. The achieved realization per social forestry scheme were 1,324,419.21 ha of Village Forests, 637,735.82 ha of Community Forests, 338,105.68 ha of Community Plantation Forests, 292,416.79 ha of Forestry Partnerships, and 28,286.34 ha of Customary Forests. The realization of customary forests is the smallest, being 1 percent of the other social forestry schemes. With the achievements of social forestry at present, the government still has work to do to realize ± 10.1 million ha of forests to achieve the target. Meanwhile, the granting of access to forest management to communities since 2015 has gradually increased.

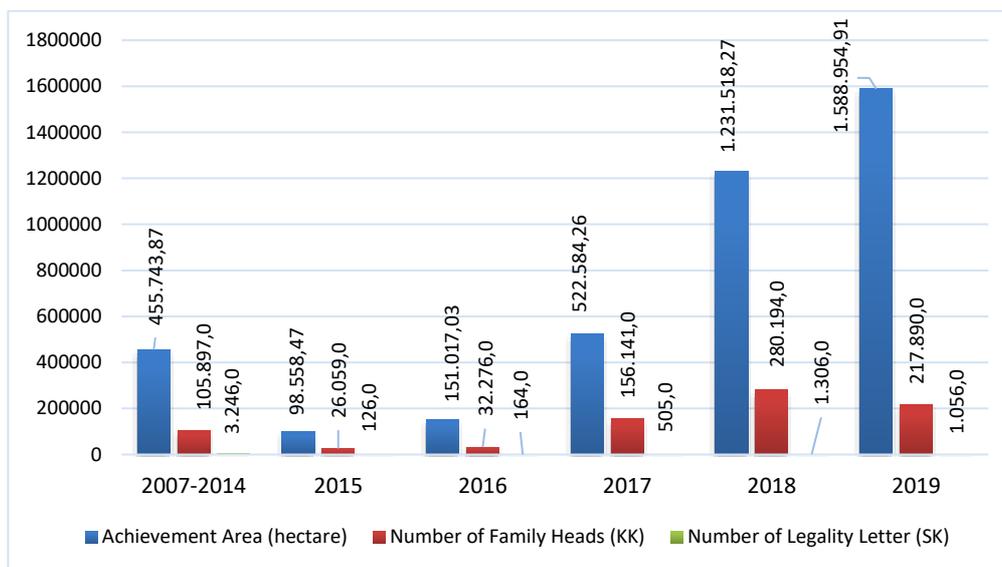


Figure 1. Achievements of Social Forestry in Indonesia from 2007 to 2019 (December 31)
 Source: Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, 2019b

The number of licenses granted to the communities in each year fluctuates, whereas the areas covered in 2015 was 98,558.47 ha, in 2016 was 151,017.03 ha, in 2017 was 522,584.26 ha, in 2018 was 1,231,518.27 ha, and in 2019 (by December 31) was 1,588,954.91 ha (Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, 2019b). This includes the achievements in the President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono administration from 2007- 2014. Although there was an acceleration in 2018, in comparison to the target of 12.7 million ha, as Figure 1 above indicates, there is a large gap between the target and the realized areas of social forestry. With a target of 12.7 million hectares, the government would ideally need to

provide access to manage 2.5 million hectares per year. In 2018, the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry revised its target from 12.7 million ha to 4.38 million ha. In 2019, as the final year of the RPJMN 2015-2019, the government through the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry targeted social forestry to cover 1 million ha. Overall, the realization of social forestry from 2007 to 2019 reached 4,048,376.81 ha or only 31.88 percent of the initial RPJMN 2015-2019 target. The cumulative number of Permit Notices (SK) from 2007-2019 was 6,403 units of Permit or Rights Notices (SK) received by 818,457 Heads of Households.

Table 2. Achievements of Social Forestry in Indonesia Period 2007-2019

Number	Province	Progress		Number of Legality Unit/SK (Unit)	Number of Family Heads (KK)*
		Target	Achievement		
		Area (Hectare)	Area (Hectare)		
1	Aceh	494,765	208,068.38	47	15,862
2	Sumatera Utara	573,146	6,626.09	119	15,138
3	Sumatera Barat	633,782	226,948.70	235	126,135
4	Riau	1,190,483	108,420.36	54	21,420
5	Jambi	340,839	197,477.73	403	31,024
6	Sumatera Selatan	332,196	119,002.95	168	25,153
7	Bengkulu	157,494	64,245.63	123	13,154
8	Lampung	367,069	214,312.71	324	74,238
9	Kepulauan Bangka Belitung	143,503	40,391.82	364	9,330
10	Kepulauan Riau	197,740	32,695.00	25	3,444
11	Jakarta	-	-	-	-
12	Jawa Barat	27,308	27,648.45	97	16,300
13	Jawa Tengah	33,244	35,449.06	80	17,710
14	Yogyakarta	3,383	1,565.88	45	5,005
15	Jawa Timur	87,265	138,619.80	272	90,178
16	Banten	4,769	16,365.48	25	10,213
17	Bali	16,383	14,390.31	83	44,923
18	Nusa Tenggara Barat	312,767	32,797.77	132	22,161
19	Nusa Tenggara Timur	526,582	51,213.34	206	15,933
20	Kalimantan Barat	1,356,549	456,168.30	171	63,488
21	Kalimantan Tengah	1,375,478	252,173.20	175	22,803
22	Kalimantan Selatan	173,505	59,837.29	114	12,780
23	Kalimantan Timur	386,574	170,171.18	87	7,628
24	Kalimantan Utara	235,997	380,911.27	67	9,118
25	Sulawesi Utara	118,850	33,048.35	179	3,400
26	Sulawesi Tengah	366,824	197,958.11	1,208	20,822
27	Sulawesi Selatan	331,797	291,668.77	579	48,962
28	Sulawesi Tenggara	306,224	82,277.32	173	13,374
29	Gorontalo	58,513	18,178.01	124	9,844
30	Sulawesi Barat	95,531	43,229.82	458	3,782
31	Maluku	231,787	183,728.72	111	22,805
32	Maluku Utara	151,284	137,272.83	88	17,194
33	Papua Barat	589,129	51,666.19	36	2,204
34	Papua	2,404,952	93,547.99	31	2,932
Total		13,625,710	4,048,376.81	6,403	818,457

Source: MoEF, 2019b

On the other hand, the target of social forestry covering an area of 12.7 million ha is a political space initiated by the government. This space should not only focus on granting social forestry permits, because in order to achieve the goal of social forestry, particularly community welfare and forest sustainability, facilitation of assistance and business development to communities who have obtained social forestry permits is needed in order that the communities can become economically independent and sustainable. Post-licensing facilitation cannot be carried out and is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry; it requires synergy with other ministries or institutions and be in sync with regional governments. Social forestry programs are often viewed within the framework of the single interests of each stakeholder. There is no collaborative framework that makes it a common interest that involves all parties. Although the local governments support the social forestry program formally and legally, the coordination of performance between the central government and regional governments is still questionable.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Problem Analysis

The development of social forestry in forest management must be able to reverse the paradigm of a top-down approach to a bottom-up or participatory approach and prioritize the participation of local communities. The strategy of developing social forestry is to provide forest management opportunities to communities with provisions that provide incentives for the efficiency and sustainability of their businesses and forest sustainability, without having to divide and surrender ownership of forest areas to economic communities. Social Forestry actors are units of social communities, who are citizens of the Republic of Indonesia who live in forest areas or in a state forest area, and possess a valid Resident Identity Card and are present in a social community with a history of cultivating forest areas; depending on the forest, their activities can affect the forest ecosystem.

Social forestry, in addition to providing forest management rights for communities, in practice has at least supported livelihoods while protecting the environment. Implementation in the field presents difficult matters. The potential causes of the low achievement of the social forestry target in the RPJMN 2015-2019 need to be elaborated further in order to be used as the basis for improvement efforts to prevent similar conditions from occurring again in the RPJMN 2020-2024. One of the potential causes for not achieving the RPJMN target is an unrealistic target, which is a condition where the target to be achieved is far beyond the capability of available resources. One way to overcome the gap between high targets and limited resources (both HR and budget) is to make breakthroughs in implementation strategies. One strategy is to involve the communities and create collaborations. This breakthrough was made by the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry in 2018, the fourth year of the implementation of the RPJMN 2015-2019, by issuing Regulation 105/2018 and Regulation 88/2018. This breakthrough was appreciated, but as it had only begun to be implemented for the 2019 fiscal year, the effectiveness of its implementation is not yet known.

During this time, there is still only a partial understanding of the implementation of forestry development programs; this condition results in the ineffectiveness of the implementation of development policies, thus encouraging the implementation of programs that do not support each other, which has implications for synchronization in the implementation of sectoral programs. The budget for social forestry programs has been utilized more to support institutional management activities. Of the five activities managed by the Directorate-General of Social Forestry and Environment Partnership of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry each year, the largest average budget allocation is to fund management support activities, which reaches 39.8 percent per year and is followed by social forest and customary forest business development activities by 32.4 percent, activities of preparing social forestry areas by 17.9 percent, activities for handling tenure and customary forest conflicts by 5.3 percent, and environmental partnership activities and community participation by 4.7 percent (Zakaria *et al.*, 2018)

The implementation of social forestry carried out in the period from 2014-2019 certainly cannot satisfy all parties, but it still deserves appreciation. If simplified, major efforts in social forestry involve legalization in the form of decrees, community empowerment, and agrarian conflict resolution in the forestry sector. The order of magnitude of achieved major efforts in this period is legalization, then community empowerment, and conflict resolution. Entering the 2020-2024 period, social forestry should emphasize the quality and outcome of empowerment, and should become an effective conflict resolution mechanism. The expansion of good social forestry implementation through empowerment and conflict resolution must be used as a reference for accelerating social forestry targets.

3.2 The Challenge of Social Forestry

The challenge of concern in the planning of social forestry in the future is related to the issue of inequality. There are two types of inequalities that become the center of attention. The first is the unequal distribution of income among community income groups, as measured by the Gini index involving people who are present in and around forest areas. The second is related to regional disparities, for which the spatial structure of the Indonesian economy is still dominated by the group of provinces in Java that contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 58 percent, followed by those in Sumatra (22 percent),

Kalimantan (8.3 percent), Sulawesi (6 percent), Bali and Nusa Tenggara (3 percent), and Maluku and Papua (2 percent). In short, it can be said that the pattern of unbalanced development in Indonesia continues to occur, as reflected by the strong “center” (Java and Sumatra) as the gravity of development, leaving the “fringes” (Eastern Indonesia and villages). The social impact that occurs is the increase in unemployment in the environment of forest farmers, which prompts people to find work in cities. What is also important is that in addition to the potential unemployment of forest farmers, there is also the condition where the number of social forestry assistants is currently lacking. Meanwhile, the lack of education, skills, and knowledge of forest farmers has led to a challenge for social forestry that must be addressed immediately. On the other hand, De Royer *et al.* (2018) argued that one of the challenges in social forestry is ignoring aspects of recognition and participation of the local communities.

Experience so far shows that the program for communities bordering forests should not be limited only to the granting of permits or management rights, but also involve the process of assistance before and after the permit or management rights are granted (Purwanto, 2015). In this context, the challenges of the social forestry program cover the process from start to finish. Without comprehensive assistance, it will be difficult to achieve social and economic sustainability of forest areas. Institutional strengthening, which will have a positive impact on strengthening regional governance and increasing the capacity and capability of groups receiving permits or management rights, will encourage forest management models that can balance various interests, including socio-economic interests and preservation of forests and the environment. In order to accelerate the target of social forestry, the government and partners must look for new innovation policies.

4. Conclusion

The manifestation of social forestry was not realized as quickly as expected because of various challenges such as community understanding that needed to be improved, readiness of forest farmer groups in land use planning, and the difficult licensing process. Therefore, simplification of procedures and licensing, institutional and partnership strengthening, regional assistance, and the development of a monitoring and evaluation system are necessary. Learning from the low achievement of the RPJMN 2015-2019, over the next 5 years, performance indicators and performance targets need to be carefully and comprehensively designed. The target of social forestry is not only broad but must be balanced with facilitation of business development that requires the synergy of ministries or institutions and synchronization with local governments. In the context of synchronizing central and regional government planning targets, the involvement of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kementerian Dalam Negeri) is important to push social forestry targets into regional planning and budgeting. In addition, it is recommended to involve all components of the communities by not marginalizing certain groups to support social forestry targets, including implementing gender-responsive programs.

The implementation of social forestry so far has not been carried out comprehensively, both in policy and in the implementation process. In this regard, the implementation of social forestry needs to be made comprehensively from start to finish by creating or strengthening existing institutions, one way of which is by strengthening the Forest Management Unit (FMU). Active involvement of local governments, especially the Regional Technical Implementation Units of the Forest Management Unit (UPTD KPH), is expected to further optimize the achievement of social forestry targets in the future. This is because the majority of social forestry intervention areas are in FMU areas. The provincial Department of Forestry and the governor have formed an acceleration verification team in order to immediately examine incoming license requests in terms of the proposed land clearing and cleaning. During this time, the delay in the realization of permit issuance has been hampered because of the long verification due to the submitted requests outnumbering the personnel.

The availability of social forestry assistants is now a challenge that needs to be taken seriously. Therefore, it is necessary to map existing social forestry assistants who have experience. In order to facilitate the coordination and support of assistants in post-licensing implementation, it is necessary to facilitate the formation of a network of them. This also has an impact on the preparation and budgeting scheme, which should not only be focused on the breadth and routine but also should focus more on increasing the capacity of forestry assistants.

The government needs to ensure that locations that will be made into areas of social forestry are in accordance with its objectives and to ensure that the permit recipients are communities in need. Verification of locations is to ensure the selected areas are in accordance with the function of the purpose

of social forestry, while verification of the permit recipient is to ensure that the permit recipient is the community in need. The government needs to limit the number of group members who will receive permission in order to facilitate verification of the recipient members of the group. During this time, the number of group members may reach hundreds, making it difficult to verify them in the field. It is important that the central government collaborates with the local government to ensure the locations and communities receiving social forestry permits are in accordance with the objectives of social forestry.

On a regional basis, social forestry can be accelerated in areas with high percentages of poverty. Data of the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) in July 2019 still showed the provinces of Papua, West Papua, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Gorontalo, Aceh, Bengkulu, West Nusa Tenggara, Central Sulawesi, and South Sumatra as the top 10 provinces with the highest percentages of poor populations. These ten provinces can become a priority for social forestry in the next five years because these regions also have wide allocations of social forestry. This is because social forestry should be the proper gateway to the welfare and sustainability of Indonesian forests.

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