

# ANALYSIS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT: STUDY OF FOREST CERTIFICATION IN INDONESIAN PRIVATE FOREST

Inggita Utami, GPSS, ID 47-126872  
Advisor: Professor Hirokazu Yamamoto  
Co-advisor: Associate Professor Hirotaka Matsuda

## ABSTRACT

As Indonesian deforestation rate in the twentieth century has increased, timber production from the main supplier, the natural production forest, is decreasing. This renders roles of Private forests as an alternative timber supplier become important (BPKH W-XI, 2012; Awang, 2007). For example, in 2004, Indonesian private forest produced 35% of national logs (TFT, 2009). However, currently, there is no professional organization responsible for coordinating with Private forest owners, and for addressing the lack of information about sustainable forest management among them. This is problematic because given the growing timber industry needs, if there is no supporting policy for sustainable private forest and no external stakeholders assistance to improve the capacity of private forests, then the existence of private forest could be endangered (Awang, 2007). Nonetheless, to address this lack of government regulation for sustainable forest management, the Indonesian government has started to implement certification system in the country. This initiative is also a response to the increasingly stringent requirement in the world timber trade for certificates of legality and sustainable forest management of timber products. Currently, there are three systems applied to the entire production forests management in Indonesia, namely FSC-Forest Stewardship Council (Voluntary – International level), LEI-Indonesian ecolabelling (voluntary – national level), and in 2009 the Indo-TLAS – Timber Legality Assurance System (mandatory – national level). Auer (2012) said that through rules,

methods, practices, verification schemes, and support for multi-stakeholders, certification systems are expected to protect forest resources and improve forest management.

Based on the problem statement above, this research aims to analyze the influence of the forest certification implementation of FSC, LEI, and Indo-TLAS on the improvement of external stakeholder support and forest management of private forest management in Indonesia. This research focus on three questions: 1) Who are the stakeholders actively involved in the implementation of forest certification systems in Indonesian private forest, and what are their roles? 2) What facilities do the certification systems provide in order to implement sustainable forest management in Indonesian private forest? 3) How do the forest certification systems and the support they provide for stakeholders influence the private forest's group management?

For answering the research questions, the methodology combined qualitative and quantitative approaches, particularly conducting structured interviews and semi-structured interview to respondents. Respondents include the head of each certified private forest group (n = 21), together with uncertified private forest group (n = 21) for comparison. Respondents from certified groups were identified in accordance to the types of certificate obtained, location (province), and institution companion. On the other hand, respondents from uncertified groups were determined through location differences. Other respondents are representative of the relevant stakeholders revealed through semi-structured interviews.

Results include specific findings on external stakeholder roles especially with regards to decision-making in forest certification system, facilitation of private forest group, and forest management practice of certified groups. First finding: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are external stakeholders that have an important role in facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration specific to decision-making process on the policy improvement of voluntary (FSC,

LEI) or mandatory (Indo-TLAS) systems for private forest management. On FSC certification, action or commitment on operational, collective and constitutional level are high, compared with LEI and Indo-TLAS (national scale) where commitment to following up and engaging in collaborative action within relevant stakeholder is low and decision-making on constitutional level is still on a deadlock. Second finding: The main priorities of NGOs and agencies who aim to strengthen the local group's capacity are technical information on the certification system, group asset inventory, and timber market access. Additional training was also provided based on the specific needs of each certification system. Third finding: forest management improvement can be seen in certified groups, with groups certified by FSC system having the highest average score based on criteria and indicator of responsible plantation forest established by FAO, 2006. Certified groups also have organized group asset inventory, increased member's knowledge, skills, and experience, increased recognition, as well as increased attention from external stakeholders. On the other hand, for the uncertified groups, they do not receive as much support from NGOs because of the NGOs limitation in number and distribution, which prevents them from reaching out to uncertified groups. Also, the lack of economic benefits of national certification systems (LEI and Indo-TLAS) affect the overall take-up of certification systems in Indonesian private forest, and create high dependency of certified groups on external support. Generally, forest certification gives a good influence on forest management rather than uncertified group. Compare with other certification system, certified group by Indo-TLAS (mandatory) has limitation effect on management, it only effects on institutional and legality aspect but lack in operational/economic planning and strategy.

*Key words:* Private Forest, Forest Certification, Voluntary, Mandatory, Multi-stakeholder Processes