



Empowering Women in Social Forestry: Indonesia's Contribution to the Climate Accords

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Abstract. This article examines Indonesia's role in supporting the goals of the Glasgow Climate Accords through women's empowerment in social forestry programs. By analyzing previous research and using the theories of ecofeminism and green politics, the study assesses whether social forestry can aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promote human rights values such as gender mainstreaming. The research reveals that while there are still gaps in forest management for women, social forestry programs provide opportunities for women to directly contribute to reducing the impact of climate change and drive economic empowerment in forest communities through the utilization of social forestry land. As a result, this article implies that Indonesia's social forestry program has the potential to support the goals of the Glasgow Climate Accords by involving women as agents of change and promoting human rights values.

Keywords: Women's Empowerment · Social Forestry · Climate Change · Human Rights · Gender Mainstreaming

1 Introduction

Gender Equality and development issues are always interrelated. The gender equality arena is considered the primary key to supporting the progress of world economic growth and strengthening the country's ability to continue developing and fighting poverty levels. The success of a country's development is also judged by the amount of participation and representation, both men and women as subjects of development. Marginalization of roles, both in women and men, is considered to cause unequal development processes and outcomes [1]. Therefore, regarding environmental issues, the Conference of the Parties (COP-26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) discussed the climate mitigation agreement by including the concept of gender mainstreaming as one of the policy agendas that supports growth and climate-responsive economic development, better known as the “Glasgow Climate Pact.” The climate agreement resulted in policy norms that every ratifying country must adopt. These countries must implement a work program on Climate Empowerment Action by promoting equal human rights. This includes providing equal access and benefits and respecting more, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in every real action on climate change [2].

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Indonesia, which was also present in the climate accord, directly stated that it would support the action program of the Glasgow Climate Pact by committing to adopt and adjust the policy norms produced in the agreement, including attaching importance to the principle of equal human rights in the concept of gender mainstreaming. President Joko Widodo also stated in his speech at the meeting that Indonesia does not work with rhetoric and will work realistically, one of which is by taking steps to address the impacts of climate change through the social forestry scheme. This program is also related to the Indonesian government's strategy for encouraging sustainable development and economic growth by promoting the principles of equity and justice in the economic welfare of communities around forests, including highlighting the importance of collaboration in the process of reducing the impact of climate change and involving the role of women as agents of climate change.

However, whether this program can be aligned with the objectives of the Glasgow climate Pact, which is to promote real action on gender-responsive climate change, given that Indonesia is very closely related to the patriarchal culture of capitalism that greatly synergizes women in every access to work and utilization of development processes. As concrete evidence, there are often several problems of gender inequality in forest management, including women's access to forest land and various other resources than men, women less representation and less influence in public decision-making and leadership positions within government institutions related to the field of forestry, women lack access to technology and information related to forests and agroforestry, women are excluded from forest commodities of high economic value, and women shoulder the burden of household care and are underrepresented in mitigation programs and initiatives related to environmental change issues [4]. Many people still view anthropocentric and androcentrism, where natural resources and the environment are only considered giant machines, so there are many forms of forest exploitation and the understanding that men are centrality. Hence, they always dominate in the forestry sector [5].

Thus, Indonesia's contribution to supporting the goals of the Glasgow Climate Pact in the Social Forestry scheme is essential to analyze. To prove the results of Indonesia's real work in the eyes of the international world and whether the policies in the social forestry scheme have adopted the norms of climate change adaptation policies that the gender responsiveness in the Glasgow Climate Pact can be well implemented so that it can be a pilot picture of environmental policy recommendations for other countries.

2 Literature Review

In this study, the authors analyze how an environmental policy regime can guarantee and encourage real action on ecological mitigation plans that involve many parties and can support the implementation of human rights standards internationally. The conclusion here is that the environmental policy regime can also help gender justice in every real action of its program. For that, the author takes some supporting literature that leads to various theories of ecofeminism and green politics approaches to support the author's arguments.

In the first and second Literature that the author took, Vandana Shiva stated that Ecofeminism was born as a concept of women's protest against the injustice of human

beings in treating nature, where they view nature and the environment as a giant machine providing benefits as a whole to humans or known as anthropocentric. As a result, because humans overexploit nature, nature and the environment are increasingly damaged and have reduced benefits. Humans need to be responsible for nature, which ecofeminist activists demand most. They also highlighted that from the environmental damage that occurs, women are the ones who feel the most impact; we can see from the final process of capitalist development that it is women who are most subordinated and suffer because almost the average woman has a livelihood that depends on nature. And it will be challenging if the environmental ecosystem is disturbed due to climate change, so women should be included in the process of efforts to save the earth and the environment, where women can also be involved in decision maker and provide input for the improvement of natural and environmental damages dangling [6].

However, the third paper explains that women are often positioned as subordinated societal groups. Women are considered to lack knowledge and not have power relations in all matters, including contributing to the development process. Women are believed to have no knowledge and skills like men, so women have a small portion of the overall opportunities given to men. Women sometimes only become marginalized people whose involvement is not taken into account; ecofeminism invites to dismantle these androcentric views and invites the world to see more deeply that the intervention of feminism (women's thinking) is very needed in all aspects, including in environmental mitigation efforts, both in terms of improving the concept of nature which is only used as a giant machine or including various transformative recommendations in repairing ecological damage damages dangling [7].

This is supported by the representation of women in a later article, which explains the success of the "*Women's Environment and Development Organizations*" (WEDO) in contributing to the action agenda of the UN conference on the environment and development in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, producing a sustainable development agenda based on a green economy as outlined in the consensus on environmental mitigation efforts and gender equality. It can be said that this is a starting point for women's actions. Women are essential actors who can be involved in all development activities, from planning to program implementation. The role of women cannot be ignored; the participation of women in the environmental mitigation sector will help increase economic growth in development. Ecofeminists point out that women are always crucial from an ecological point of view but need particular legitimacy or a policy of protection rules to guarantee the absence of gender discrimination [8].

Furthermore, in Medupien's article, she also explained how vital women's role is in promoting inclusivity and encourages any policies that lead to the field of environmental mitigation and sustainable development economics. The *Women in Environmental Sciences* (WiES) Forum is a British women's activist movement in the Manchester United region; where the Forum was created to support and inspire women to engage directly with their environment and care more about the environment. It started from sharing the essential experiences where they received many negative impacts from the development of industrialization in the UK, such as reproductive health and respiratory tract. They make women in the UK aware of the importance of the environment and the need to find a solution to the problems. The forum has succeeded in herding new opinions

about the importance of looking at environmental issues from the view of women, so the WiEs program has influenced many changes in people's behavior or policies at the UK national level. In addition, their program has succeeded in contributing relevant information, primarily to UN Women on equality, inclusion, participation, and involvement in the environment environmental involvement, in achieving a sustainable future [9].

The article furthermore the author further highlights references that are more towards the importance of a government regime, especially those that lead to the environmental policy as a legal umbrella for the running of gender mainstreaming in environmental issues to guarantee the challenges and opportunities of participation of women and men or more towards the political concept of the Environment. Environmental politics is defined as making a policy and implementing projects to deal with ecological problems that have become international issues. In another sense, it is more of a form of formulating government strategies and policies in allocating natural resources and the environment to the community or private parties and markets by using political power to achieve political interests, as well as discussing the political role of the parties in fighting for justice and environmental sustainability, for example, such as the role of ecological NGOs or *epistemic communities* in influencing government political decisions [10].

One of the main supporting factors for women's participation is the need to enforce licensing rules. And sometimes formal licensing systems based on gender mainstreaming are often overlooked and have capacity limitations among licensing regulatory authorities. As with the discrimination that occurs in Inuit women in the Canadian region, they experience discrimination in the field of work where the area consists mainly of mining and fisheries land dominated by the male performance sector. They were only given a small opportunity to work as farmers and fishermen because they were considered to lack knowledge, were weak and were never allowed to participate as decision-makers in the development of the policy sector. But in the end, they succeeded in influencing the national governing regime with their actions in climate mitigation efforts by developing adaptations to agroforestry and *sylvofishery* models that also provided many benefits for improving the welfare of the wider Inuit community. From there, the local government began to realize the role of Inuit women. It was ultimately moved to give legal legitimacy regarding gender mainstreaming in every field of work program so that there is an equitable and fair portion of work justice [11].

Some of this literature became state of the art for the author, which corroborated the author's argument that the relationship between women and the environment is quite strong, as has been conveyed by the copyist stream, and needs to be included in a concept of ideas for the development of environmental mitigation policies that are institutionalized in the social system of society.

3 Research Methods

This research will use qualitative descriptive research methods. This type of qualitative research is in the form of an explanation or description of the problem raised by the phenomenon that occurs and is subjective. The data obtained by the author were then processed using *library research*. Literature studies are a method of collecting data and related theories through various types of literature. The author uses secondary data,

meaning that the data obtained as reference material is data from previous discoveries or studies. The regular literature used can be in the form of journals, books, theses, website articles, and other reading sources related to the issues raised by the author related to developments and concrete actions from the results of the Glasgow Climate Pact agreement carried out by the Indonesian government through social forestry schemes, especially those related to women's participation in climate mitigation efforts in Indonesia. Then scientific articles related to various forms of human rights discrimination against women that occur in Indonesia as supporting literature, especially in forest management, as well as different international and national environmental policy laws implemented in Indonesia as a reference for the author in exploring the development of new ideas and innovations to find a model policy strategy that can be in line with the results of the Glasgow Climate Pact towards gender-responsive climate mitigation efforts. The authors used qualitative descriptive data analysis techniques in the data analysis process. Qualitative descriptive data analysis is an analysis technique by collecting data from various relevant sources related to environmental mitigation programs according to the Glasgow Climate Pact agreement, social forestry schemes, and the role of Indonesian women as climate mitigation agents. The data will be analyzed, and a conclusion will be drawn based on the hypothesis submitted by the authoring [12].

4 Finding and Discussion

4.1 Social Forestry as a Form of Adaptation to Gender-Responsive Climate Mitigation Efforts

The UN Climate Change Summit (COP-26) held in the UK on 31 October 2021 became the basis for the continued strengthening of elements of the agreement between Paris and Bonn previously about accurate action plans on climate change. Once, some of these climate agreements only offered vague solutions, and their implementation has not shown significant developments in addressing the equitable climate crisis, including gender justice. However, Cop-26 Glasgow produced a more tangible agreement than the various elements of the previous climate agreement, which is more concerned with the joint efforts of each party (collaboration) to reduce the greenhouse gas emission standard to 1.5 degrees Celsius with a pattern of cooperation as well as prioritizing the Gender Action Plan in any capacity building of mitigation elements, such as requiring gender mainstreaming policies, protection rules, special allocations in funding, as well as monitoring systems and evaluation reports that can ensure women's access to information, social capacity building, participation in decision making, and other supporting conditions [13].

In this climate change convention, it has been recognized that the participation of all parties is essential, including the role of women, because they are among the most affected by climate change. For example, industrialization development around the 90s caused many toxic gases such as sodium oxide, methyl mercury, and pesticides to be released from factories. Many women have endometriosis and breast cancer. Therefore, the environmental policy must also consider finding solutions from the consideration of women. And gender justice-based ecological policies should be every country's commitment as a concrete action plan to confront climate change. Gender policies and action

plans are needed as a gender safeguard to ensure women's access and control over natural resources and the environment, as well as strengthen initiatives based on local wisdom and traditional knowledge of women in efforts to mitigate iklim.

In the practice of forest management in Indonesia, a very inherent culture is patriarchy known as "Forest Masculinity," where this cultural view has made men the norm that applies to all without considering the perspectives and knowledge of another group-ing [14]. So, it often triggers controversy about gender inequality, such as women's lack of access to forest land and other environmental resources. Women are also often excluded from high-economic-value forest commodities and bear the responsibility of a higher household care burden. This is sometimes used as an excuse for women not to be included in every climate mitigation program that the Ministry of Forestry and Environment has launched. In fact, women are classified as having a lot of essential roles in forest management activities, such as utilizing non-timber forest products and ecotourism environmental services. Indonesian women also find it difficult to voice their needs and aspirations because they. They do not occupy leadership positions in government institutions because they are only considered as supporting factors and do not have an important enough role as agents of change to improve environmental issues [1].

Through the Social Forestry scheme, which has adopted several Glasgow Climate Pact policy norms to mitigate a more gender-responsive climate, the Government of Indonesia is trying to solve the gender issue. Efforts to encourage the participation of Indonesian women inspired by the involvement of Indonesian women previously marginalized in forest management. Social Forestry is a national forestry program that opens access to forest management for surrounding communities. The priority targets of social forestry programs are communities whose standard of living is still at the poverty line and vulnerable and marginalized groups whose lives depend heavily on the sustainability of forests and all the biodiversity produced [15]. This is very good for environmental mitigation programs because this program carries the concept of sustainable forests that positively impact efforts to control climate change. The idea of sustainable forests leads to forest utilization permits but still considers the balance of the ecosystem with sound forest management. Research proves that good forest management in tropical countries such as Indonesia can help the high amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas absorption, which reaches 21 tons per hectare /year, compared to the absorption of savanna and sub-tropical forests whose absorption rate is much lower around 5.5–7.5 tons per hectare/year so that it is enough to help reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions globally [16].

Good forest management will support climate change efforts because when forests function correctly, climate change can be pressed [17]. Apart from being a tactical solution to environmental mitigation efforts, social forestry schemes are also a solution to overcome the problem of land inequality that often occurs in Gender conflicts because the basic principle of social forestry schemes is the devolution of rights to local communities in an equitable manner n in supporting livelihoods and poverty alleviation which also contributes to sustainable forest conservation activities.

Social Forestry has programs that provide a space for the participation of women in a neutral manner to have implications for forest management and utilization. Such as programs related to the development of Forest Management Units, Community-Based

Forest Management, and Forestry Strategic Planning. The concept of gender mainstreaming has been integrated into each program by Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2000, whereby the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) must develop a system of gender-responsive forestry development, women must be given equal opportunities in a fair division of labor with men in every forest management program and activity.

In forest management programs, for example, each training and knowledge transfer program for human resource capacity development (DIKLAT), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry always considers the representation of women in portions. This is the same as the participation of men to get the same knowledge and participate in every decision-making. Such as training for data mapping, forest inventory, and spatial data processing is beneficial for long-term forest strategic planning. In terms of community-based forest management (PHBM) practices, which combine many agricultural and forestry systems (agroforestry), women always have the same capacity. For example, the PHBM program in the Kalimantan region, which is a pilot project for social forestry in the village of Menu Sadap in Kapuas Hulu Regency, is divided into a fair division of labor systems where men play a role in logging activities, rattan retrieval, search for medicinal plants, preparation of agricultural land on forest land and hunting.

Meanwhile, women play a more critical role in processing non-timber forest products, such as making handicrafts from rattan and bamboo, collecting firewood, and making and weaving. In addition, some of the work carried out is the preparation of agricultural seedlings, planting seedlings, and weeding grass in rice fields in the forest. The agroforestry program is considered very influential for environmental mitigation because it increases the cover of degraded forest land with land deforestation by the blue carbon initiative (increase forest capacity in carbon accounting).

Regarding strategic planning, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has also designed programs whose budget planning is more gender-responsive (gender-responsive *budgeting*). In collaboration with funding partner institutions from around the world, the MoEF prepares long-term forest management plans by empowering women in social forestry working groups and facilitating the group with the science of environmental mitigation that improves economic well-being. From the funding budget, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry also helps fund proposals considered essential for reducing emissions from these groups, such as opening up ecotourism, experimental gardens, and renewable energy programs. Example of this, MoEF in collaboration with GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*), funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which was named the Forest and Climate Change Program in Kalimantan and Sulawesi (FORCLIME). FORCLIME facilitates by providing special assistance for developing agroforestry and non-timber forests for wetlands and environmental services such as ecotourism. The Women's Working Group is also guaranteed the acquisition of permits in the management of social forestry, and every stage of the social forestry business, according to the proposals received, is always accompanied. Even the MoEF auditing and evaluation program includes gender parameters to map each problem and finds solutions based on considerations of experience, obstacles, and the needs between men and women to establish sustainability as an effective operational unit [18].

As evidenced by these programs, the role of women began to be taken into account in the management of social forestry, which was previously closely related to the value of masculinity and tended to be strong in the dominant in managing forest. Women have broader access to climate change mitigation efforts and sustainable forest governance management. Women's empowerment also in access to sustainable forest management accelerates the realization of economic equality for all Indonesian people because the role of women in the local economy supports equal economic growth and can cause political and economic political-economic changes. The increase in women's participation in forest management groups has also been shown to positively influence climate mitigation because, with the existence of these groups, the condition of forests is getting better, as evidenced by forest regeneration and canopy growth [20].

4.2 Social Forestry Practices in Indonesia

The concept of Social Forestry in Indonesia, which adopts the critical points of environmental policy norms resulting from the Glasgow Climate Pact, is quite a legal umbrella that ensures women's access to forest utilization and management in Indonesia. However, in practice, the implementation of social forestry is still often encountered in forms of gender inequality. The achievements of the social forestry program in 2015–2019 prove that gender inequality still occurs; women's access to forests is still much more limited than men's. MoEF data shows that men still dominate 94% in utilizing the PHBM program, and the remaining 6% are managed by women who have the status of heads of families [21].

The low access of women to the use of the program is due to the biased laws stated in the Social Forestry regulations. In the Regulation of the Minister of The Ministry of Environment and Forestry no. 9/2021 concerning social forestry that has integrated gender mainstreaming, it states that PHBM and access to land benefits, only for one family represented by one head of the family by providing equal opportunities, both men and women [1]. And if you look at the article's content, almost all intact families are represented by the head of the family of the male sex, then; then it cannot be blamed for the lack of participation of women in the PHBM program because of the interplay of the article. The article is still a bit biased and needs to be corrected so as not to be gender biased. Even for the provision of access, physical assistance, and funding to the social forestry working group, the distribution has not been evenly distributed and adjusted to group needs. This is because the government can still not map the level of needs proportionally based on the group's needs. The assistance provided is carried out without a discussion, so it still seems *top-down* and temporary. For example, the government offers plant seed assistance for agroforestry without considering the presence of land, the quality of seedlings, and the community's needs for the commodities [1].

Another form of inequality is in terms of assistance in access to cooperation with private parties who have the potential to become partners. The presence of the private sector will undeniably be beneficial in terms of capital and marketing systems. However, based on the conditions on the ground, assistance is still more accessible to men. This happens because there are still gender stereotypes that consider the insight factor of knowledge, and the level of intelligence possessed by female farmers is still below that of men. Women are deemed unable to manage the programs given. With such

stereotypes, women's access to opportunities to increase hr capacity is minimal in many cases; men tend to be preferred to be given access to information through training and other assistance [1]. And this is also correlated with the role of women in the placement of strategic positions, for example, as member administrators or as chairmen who have control over the plans of social forestry business groups (KUPS). Because women are still considered to have less knowledge and do not have much access to information and are included in HR capacity-building programs, making the female leadership representation ratio tests too low at 2:9. In fact, the representation of women is highly expected as access to control throughout the entire series of KUPS activities, it can influence decision-making that is more towards gender justice [22].

Legally, gender mainstreaming (PUG) has become a national direction and vision that is legalized in every social forestry program and is contained in the Minister of Environment and Forestry regulation no. 9/2021 concerning social forestry. These programs are provided in the n of gender discrimination. Various program innovations related to climate mitigation efforts that are more gender-responsive gender-responsive have also been consistently developed and become a top priority in terms of budget and variety of activities. However, based on conditions in the field, access to these programs has not been optimally distributed evenly. The process of empowering women in the ongoing social forestry program still needs improvement and improvement so that the assistance received by the community becomes an appropriate and targeted program.

The Social Forestry Scheme needs to revise its legal umbrella again and increase its institutional capacity and human resources. Both in In terms of design, implementation, monitoring, and policy evaluation of each program, it is necessary to pay attention to *the Gender Analysis Pathway* (GAP) to see the condition of the perpetrators of the social forestry group from the position of women. The existence of GAP will help identify what focus needs to be improved on the problem of gender inequality. Both in terms of access, participation, control, and benefits received by women's groups of social forestry. By using GAP, policy planners/programs/development activities will not take any more steps in formulating a policy plan that is right on target. GAP, will also help to increase the understanding of PUG for related parties, both on the part of planners and those who run programs in the field consistently. However, the revision of the legal umbrella by the GAP also needs full support and cooperation from the parties involved to implement the program by the established strategic plan.

5 Conclusion

Indonesia has adopted a Gender Action Plan in every capacity building of mitigation elements in social forestry schemes. And through the Social Forestry program, Indonesia has proven active involvement globally in supporting climate mitigation efforts in a gender-responsive manner, as evidenced by social forestry programs that provide access to women' participationnt in sustainable forest management, as well as a legal basis that integrates gender mainstreaming to ensure fair and equitable participation of women as stated in Regulation of the Minister of The Ministry of Environment and Forestry no. 9/2021 concerning social forestry. However, in its implementation, there are still many forms of gender inequality and inequality due to the inherent gender norms and

stereotypes in Indonesian society, especially among implementers of social forestry programs both internally and externally. For this reason, the understanding of gender mainstreaming in climate mitigation efforts still needs to be disseminated equally by the government through policy restructuring that is more gender-responsive. And to restructure the policy, a *Gender Analysis Pathway* (GAP) is needed to see the condition of social forestry group actors from the position of women. The existence of GAP will help identify what focus needs to be improved on the problem of gender inequality. Both in terms of access, participation, control, and benefits received by women's groups of social forestry. In addition, full support and cooperation from the parties involved so that the established strategic plan can implement the program is also very necessary.

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