



Interest Rights and Forest Management: Perspectives on the Clash Between Rights of the Government and Indigenous Peoples

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Abstract : In forest management, conflicts often occur between the interests of the government and customary law communities. Forest management in Indonesia has been the subject of complex debate, with differing perspectives between the government and indigenous communities. The research uses the literature study method; the authors used sources in the Google Scholar, Scopus, Hein, and World of Science databases. This article examines the impacts and implications of conflicting interests related to forest rights between Indonesia's government and indigenous people. It also explores ways to reach a fair and sustainable agreement in managing forest resources that are important for the sustainability of the environment and the lives of local communities. The interesting finding found that the Indonesian government has developed several forest management strategies, such as community forest management, which aims to increase community participation in forest management and reduce conflict. However, indigenous peoples have forest-related rights, such as traditional rights and local wisdom, which must be respected and integrated into forest management. Based on those problems, the authors concluded and recommended that intensive cooperation and dialogue between the government and indigenous peoples is needed to address this conflicting perspective. The government should pay more attention to Indigenous peoples' rights and local wisdom related to forests and endeavour to integrate them into the forest management process. Meanwhile, indigenous peoples should pay more attention to the government's objectives and attempt to incorporate them into the forest management process. By doing so, forest management in Indonesia can become more effective and sustainable, reducing conflicts arising from different interests.

Keywords: Indigenous peoples, forest management, and rights,

1. Introduction

Forest rights and management in Indonesia are an exciting and complex issue, with clashes between government rights and Indigenous peoples[1]. The government can manage production forests involving timber and non-timber forest products. This right is regulated in Government Regulation 34 of 2002 and Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry[2] FMUs are forest management units responsible for managing forests sustainably. FMUs can be in the form of Conservation FMUs (KPHK), Protection FMUs (KPHL), or Production FMUs (KPHP). FMUs are tasked with organizing forest management, including forest management, preparation of forest management plans, forest utilization, forest rehabilitation, and forest protection[3]. Protected forests are regulated for the use of areas, the use of environmental services, and the collection of non-timber forest products.

The area can be used for medicinal plant cultivation, beekeeping, and captivity. Meanwhile, environmental services include ecotourism, challenge sports tourism, water utilization, and carbon trading. On the other hand, indigenous peoples have the right to manage forests based on customs and traditions. This right is recognized in Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry and Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government. Therefore, in this case, the government can provide forest management rights to village communities and communities in forest areas that have not been burdened with forest use permits. This right aims to improve the welfare and awareness of the community around the forest about the function and sustainability of protected forests[4]. However, there is often a clash between the two; a clash occurs between the government's right to manage forests sustainably and the right of indigenous peoples to manage forests based on customs. This, for example, is the case where Indigenous peoples may have traditions that involve the sustainable use of forests. In contrast, governments may have policies that regulate the use of forests more intensively to obtain more significant economic benefits.

Several cases in Indonesia can support the authors' argumentation. For example, The Dayak community in South Kalimantan has been in conflict with the government and companies over their rights to their customary land used for large-scale mining and plantation activities. The Dayak people claim their customary land rights per customary law but are often overlooked by the government and companies in the forest management process[5].

per customary law but are often overlooked by the government and companies in the forest management process[5]. The Mentawai people on Mentawai Island, West Sumatra, have conflicted with the government and timber companies due to illegal logging that destroys their habitat and threatens the survival of indigenous peoples. This case shows how Indigenous peoples often do not have equal access to decision-making about forest management[6].

In Papua, there are many cases of conflict between indigenous peoples and the government and mining companies because of claims to customary land rich in natural resources. Indigenous peoples in Papua often feel marginalized in decision-making processes about their land use, often without their consent[7]. There have also been successful cases of cooperation between the government and indigenous peoples in forest management, such as in North Sumatra, where the government works with indigenous peoples in protected forest management and conservation. This case shows how cooperation between the government and indigenous peoples can bring positive forest conservation and management results. The above cases show how the relationship between the government and indigenous peoples in forest management in Indonesia can be in the form of conflict or collaboration[8]. This shows the importance of recognizing and protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples in natural resource management, as well as the importance of cooperation between the government and Indigenous peoples to achieve the goals of conservation and sustainable forest management.

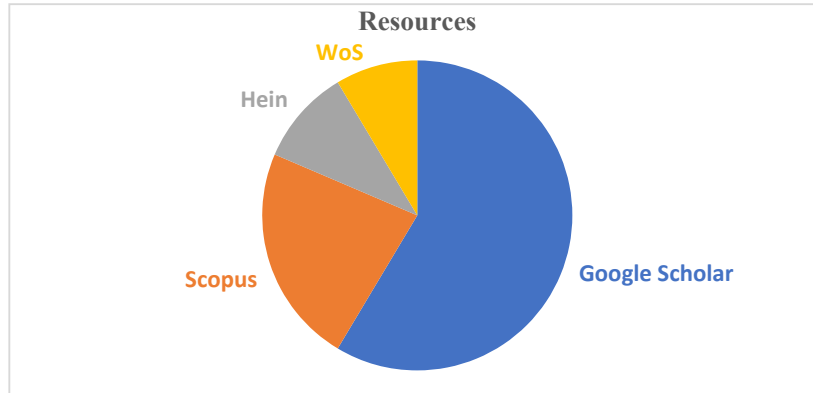
Previous research conducted by Azaria et al. The authors explore the complex interplay between indigenous peoples' rights and environmental politics in Indonesia. They emphasized Indigenous communities' struggles in upholding their land rights and the challenges posed by government policies and commercial interests in exploiting natural resources. In addition, a sound legal and political framework supports or undermines the rights of indigenous peoples and provides insight into the potential for collaborative approaches that can embrace conservation efforts with these communities' cultural and economic needs. It is essential to understand the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of environmental governance and the ongoing debates on how to achieve sustainable development that respects the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples. The authors also want to underline that what differentiates from the research conducted by the authors is the focus of the Indonesian case and how environmental politics affects the rights of indigenous peoples.

Meanwhile, the research conducted by Fisher et al [10]. It provides views on the dynamics between indigenous peoples and conservation efforts. The often conflictual relationship between the two parties, the government, and Indigenous peoples, can become a collaboration. There is good collaboration between indigenous peoples and conservation practitioners who have managed to overcome their differences and work together to achieve the same goal, namely environmental conservation and socio-cultural sustainability of indigenous peoples. It is important to remain optimistic about the potential synergies between indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and scientific approaches to conservation and to emphasize the importance of recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples in any conservation initiative. Meanwhile, what distinguishes this study is that it provides a view of conflicts of interest that occur in Indonesia, especially in areas that often occur, while the research conducted by Nelson et al. only provides a general view of how conflicts between Indigenous peoples and conservation can be transformed into collaboration, with case studies from various locations.

In addition to the two studies above, a similar study was conducted by Klooster[11]. This study explains how indigenous peoples in Mexico regulate and manage their forest resources. It focuses on the dynamics between their collective actions, community structures, and market outcomes in shared forest management. Indigenous peoples' forest ownership and management system affects their ability to take effective collective action and how this impacts economic consequences and the conservation of forest resources. Therefore, it is essential to play the role of indigenous peoples in forest management and how indigenous people-based approaches can support environmental and economic sustainability.

Meanwhile, what differs from this study is that Alix-Garcia et al. provide a perspective from Mexico, where the autonomy of indigenous peoples in forest management is linked to collective action and market results. Based on this background, to obtain precise and quality research results, the authors conducted research boundaries for this study by drawing three (3) objectives of this study, namely to find out the conflicts of interests related to forest rights between the government and indigenous peoples, and the impacts and implications of conflicting interests related to forest rights, and solution of conflicts of interests related to forest rights in Indonesia.

2. Method



The paper uses the literature study method; the authors used sources in the Google Scholar, Scopus, Hein, and World of Science (WoS) databases using the following keywords: "interest rights and forest management," "forest rights, government, and Indigenous people," "Indigenous people and forest management," and "government, forest management, and interest rights and Rohingya." The authors found approximately 1200 documents with keywords, and they searched for several sites that the authors mentioned. The authors filtered up to 500 documents, then filtered again to find approximately 38 documents that the authors used to do this research as a reference for the authors in answering the objectives of this research. Furthermore, the author writes from the data, formulates the purpose of the problem, provides additional argumentation, and describes it through research findings.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Conflicts of Interests of Forest Rights Between the Government and Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia

Conflicts of interest related to forest rights between the government and indigenous peoples in Indonesia occur due to differences of views and conflicting interests. Article 4 and Article 10 of Law No. 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry grants control over forests to the government through the Ministry of Forestry[12]. The UUPA (Basic Agrarian Law), as a legal umbrella regarding land in Indonesia, does not directly recognize the customary rights of indigenous peoples[13]. Conflicts of interest between indigenous peoples and governments often arise due to inconsistencies with national legal frameworks. Indigenous peoples seek legal recognition and protection of customary forests as natural resources, while governments seek to manage forests following national policies[14]. Therefore, in some policy decisions, the government often needs to pay attention to the rights of indigenous peoples in forest management, which can lead to conflicts and injustices against existing communities. Remember, customary forests are not only a place for existing communities and animals to make ends meet or even have fun and hunt but also an ecosystem that stores natural resources in the form of wood and non-wood that the community can benefit from. Conflicts between indigenous peoples and governments or companies operating in customary forest areas are often caused by a lack of formal recognition of indigenous peoples' rights. This leads to uncertainty in land ownership and use, which in turn can threaten the survival of indigenous peoples themselves. Customary forests have significant ecological value, not only as a source of timber but also as a habitat for various species of flora and fauna, as well as a provider of ecosystem services such as water and carbon management.

In answering this problem, the government needs to be interested in strengthening the recognition and legal protection of customary law and the relationship between customary law and formal law. These measures can create an inclusive and sustainable framework for natural resource management. Measures taken by governments to enhance legal recognition and protection of customary law must be based on the principles of justice, participation, and equality[15]. This includes officially recognizing indigenous communities' rights to their lands and natural resources and the customary legal system they have used to manage and protect their forests and lands for centuries. In this way, governments can build partnerships based on mutual respect and

cooperation with Indigenous communities, which can help develop more effective and sustainable environmental policies[16].

Collaboration with Measures to recognize and protect customary forests can also help mitigate climate change. Forests managed by indigenous communities often have lower levels of deforestation and have a better ability to maintain biodiversity. By providing the necessary legal support and resources, the government can help indigenous communities continue to protect and sustain their forests as a valuable resource for the entire community. To achieve this goal, therefore, it is essential for the government to involve indigenous communities in the policy-making process and to listen to their aspirations. Cooperation between governments, civil society, and indigenous communities can ensure that policies are relevant, effective, and sustainable.

In addition, in addressing this problem, an approach that integrates the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights with sustainable natural resource management is needed. One way this can be done is to certify or officially recognize customary forest areas, providing a solid legal basis for indigenous peoples to responsibly protect and manage their forests. In addition, government support in education, training, and technical assistance is also critical to increase the capacity of indigenous peoples in forest management. Thus, indigenous peoples will not only be able to protect their customary forests but will also be able to develop the local economy through sustainable management of natural resources.

On the other hand, the government's political will is essential in efforts to harmonize customary forest rights as defined by the Constitutional Court Decision Number 35/PUU-X/2012. Governments must firmly commit to recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples' rights in forest management. The government's political will is essential in harmonizing customary forest rights as defined by the Constitutional Court Decision Number 35/PUU-X/2012[18]. Governments must firmly commit to recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples' rights in forest management. The availability of the government's political will is not only a matter of verbal commitment but must also be followed by concrete actions.

This includes the development of policies that support the recognition of Indigenous forest rights, adequate budget allocation for related programs, and capacity building and education for Indigenous peoples so that they can be more effective in managing and protecting their forests. In addition, governments need to work closely with various parties, including non-governmental organizations, international agencies, and civil society, to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are respected and protected in forest management practices. Thus, conflicts of interest related to forest rights between the government and indigenous peoples in Indonesia occur due to differences of views and conflicting interests. To reach an agreement, the government must have a solid political will to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples in forest management.

3.1 The Impacts and Implications of Conflicting Interests of Forest Rights Between the Government and Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia

As explained by the authors above, the conflict of interest related to forest rights between Indonesia's government and indigenous peoples has several significant impacts and implications. These conflicts of interest often arise due to differences of views and conflicting interests. The government seeks to manage forests by national policies, while indigenous peoples seek to gain legal recognition and protection of their customary forests as natural resources. Governments often ignore the rights of indigenous peoples in forest management, which can lead to conflict and injustice. For example, the revocation of plantation business licenses that violate the designation of forest functions can cause a conflict of interest between the government and Indigenous peoples.

These conflicts of interest are often exacerbated by ambiguity in the regulations and policies governing forest rights and their use. Indigenous peoples, who have cultural and spiritual attachments to forests, usually do not have adequate legal power to protect their rights. As a result, many customary forests have been converted to plantations or mines without the consent of local Indigenous peoples[20]. In addition, the public consultation process that often needs to run more effectively adds to the complexity of this problem. Indigenous peoples need to be more actively involved in decision-making affecting their territory. The impact of this non-inclusive policy can be very detrimental, both socially, economically, and environmentally. Conflicts that arise can result in losses for Indigenous peoples, such as loss of access to natural resources that are their source of livelihood, as well as irreparable environmental damage[21].

The importance of respect and recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples has been recognized in various international instruments, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)[22]. However, implementation at the national level often needs to be addressed. To achieve justice and sustainability in forest management, inclusive and participatory policies are required, as well as tremendous respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples[23]. Conflicts of interest in forest management can interfere with public services. Air pollution due to forest and land fires can disrupt public services and can even have fatal consequences, such as the death of infants or young children. Therefore, the government needs to resolve this conflict of interest; the government must prioritize the public interest, create openness in handling, encourage personal responsibility, and foster an organizational culture that is intolerant of conflicts of interest.

This is because conflicts of interest in forest management can also result in significant economic losses, such as decreased productivity in the agricultural and fisheries sectors due to environmental degradation. In addition, uncontrolled wildfires can damage public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and disrupt local economic activities. Efforts to address this issue must involve the active participation of various stakeholders, including local communities, companies, and local governments[24]. Concrete steps that governments can take include stricter enforcement of environmental violations, incentives for sustainable forest management practices, and institutional capacity building to manage conflicts. Transparency in the decision-making process is also crucial to ensure that all affected parties have a voice and that their interests are considered[25].

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (1945 Constitution) recognizes the existence of indigenous peoples and their rights. Article 18b Number 2 (two) of the 1945 Constitution states that the State recognizes and respects the units of customary law communities and their traditional rights as long as they are alive and by the development of society and the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as stipulated in the law. In addition, the 1945 Constitution also emphasizes the importance of forest control by the State, which is carried out on the principles of benefit and sustainability, populism, justice, togetherness, openness, and integration[27]. It is based on noble and responsible morals. The control of forests by the State is not ownership, but the State authorizes the Government to regulate and manage everything related to forests, forest areas, and forest products. In the context of customary forests, the 1945 Constitution recognizes that customary forests are state forests located in customary law communities. This customary forest functions as a living area with the main tasks of conservation, protection, and production[28].

Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry. This law covers the management of customary forests within customary law communities' territory[29]. Customary forests are regulated as state forests whose management is handed over to customary law communities. Nonetheless, customary law communities must prove that they have met the requirements in the law to be recognized as customary law communities, and only then are they entitled to apply for customary forest management approval from the government. Regulation of the Minister of Forestry Number 1 of 2013. This Circular Letter emphasizes that the determination of customary forest areas remains with the Minister of Forestry[30]. The local government determines if the indigenous people have been defined in advance through regional regulations. This process is still very long and often causes conflicts with the government and other legal entities[31].

Regulation of the Minister of Agrarian Affairs Number 5 of 1999. This regulation regulates the settlement of customary rights issues in customary law communities[32]. Although this regulation stipulates that local regulations can resolve customary rights problems, local regulations are often used to recognize customary law rules' existence in customary law communities' lives. Furthermore, governments should promote environmental responsibility through education and campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving forests. Forest rehabilitation programs involving local communities can also be an effective solution to reduce tensions and conflicts. Thus, conflicts of interest in forest management can be minimized, public services can be improved, and environmental sustainability can be maintained[33]. In addition, the government can also adopt a social forestry system. Social forestry is a forest management system that involves participation from various parties. It can help resolve resource conflicts by taking a persuasive approach and committing to mutual agreement.

Social Forestry also pays attention to the role and rights of the community and the involvement of various parties in managing forest resources. Social Forestry provides opportunities for local communities to gain legal access and economic benefits from forests, which may have previously been limited or unavailable. This program aims to improve community welfare through various schemes, such as Community Forests (HKm),

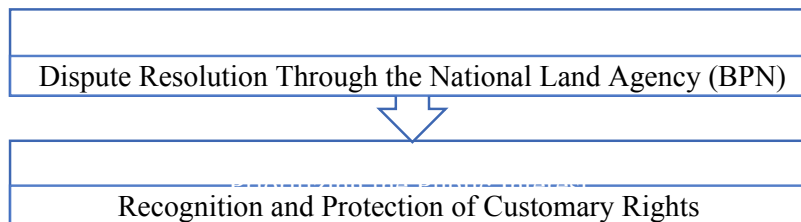
Village Forests (HD), People's Plantation Forests (HTR), and Customary Forests. By granting management rights to local communities, Social Forestry encourages them to participate actively in forest conservation and rehabilitation efforts[34].

In addition, Social Forestry can improve environmental sustainability by reducing pressure on natural forests and reducing the rate of deforestation. Communities involved in the program are empowered to manage forests sustainably, including agroforestry, reforestation, and sustainable use of forest non-timber. The involvement of local communities not only ensures the sustainability of forest ecosystems but also reduces the potential for conflicts with other parties who may have different interests in forest resources. Social Forestry also opens up opportunities for collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in support of community-based initiatives. Through technical and financial support, these parties can help local communities develop their capacity in forest management and increase the economic value of forest products. Thus, Social Forestry aims to resolve resource conflicts and create inclusive, participatory, and sustainable forest management models[35].

Thus, conflicts of interest related to forest rights between the government and indigenous peoples in Indonesia significantly impact public services, resource conflicts, and government policies. The government must build an inclusive dialogue mechanism between various stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, local governments, NGOs, and the private sector. Each party can communicate their interests and concerns through this approach and contribute to developing fair and sustainable solutions. Transparent and accountable policy implementation must also be carried out to ensure that the public interest is always a top priority in forest resource management[36]. Capacity building of local and regional institutions is also essential to ensure that existing policies can be effectively implemented on the ground. Training and empowerment for government officials and local communities can help strengthen coordination and collaboration in sustainable forest management[37].

3.2 Solution of Conflicts of Interests of Forest Rights Between the Government and Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia

Resolving conflicts of interest related to forest rights in Indonesia can be done through several steps and mechanisms. The government needs to be the main thing in resolving disputes and conflicts of interest because no matter how these communities exist, they have their customary rights, and the state only has these rights if it is in the public interest. Therefore, the authors provide the following views to alleviate or resolve these conflicts of interest.



Synchronization and Harmonization of Policies

The Government must synchronize and harmonize policies that regulate customary forests with production forest management policies. Creating an inclusive and sustainable framework for natural resource management is essential. The synchronization and harmonization of these policies aim to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are recognized and protected without neglecting the goal of efficient and sustainable management of production forests. The government needs to develop transparent and integrated regulations, which include aspects of the ownership, utilization, and protection of customary forests. This consists of preparing accurate maps of customary territories and formal recognition of customary rights in law[38]. In addition, a harmonized framework should include mechanisms that allow indigenous peoples to participate in managing production forests. Partnership schemes between indigenous peoples and forestry companies can be implemented to ensure that local communities also feel the economic benefits of forest production. These include profit sharing, job creation, and knowledge transfer regarding sustainable forest management practices[39].

The government must also ensure good coordination between various institutions and sectors involved in forest management. This includes cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, local governments, and indigenous peoples' organizations. With good coordination, the policies implemented can run synergistically and effectively in the field. This synchronous and harmonious policy must also be supported by strict supervision and periodic evaluation. The government needs to monitor the implementation of these policies to ensure that the goals of inclusivity and sustainability are achieved. Policy evaluations should also consider feedback from Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders to make necessary improvements[40].

Dispute Resolution Through the National Land Agency (BPN)

In resolving land disputes that arise, the BPN can act as a settlement mechanism. BPN must understand the root problems that arise from conflicts of interest and take appropriate steps to resolve disputes. One crucial step is mediation involving all relevant parties, including indigenous peoples, local governments, and interested private parties. This mediation aims to find a fair and acceptable solution for all parties. BPN also needs to increase transparency in the land dispute resolution process. Information regarding land ownership status, use permits, and the dispute submission process must be easily accessible to the public. This transparency will help reduce the potential for corruption and data manipulation, often sources of problems in land disputes[41]. In addition, BPN must strengthen its internal capacity in dispute management and conflict handling. Training for BPN staff on mediation, negotiation, and conflict analysis techniques is urgently needed to improve professionalism and effectiveness in handling land disputes. Using sophisticated information technology and data management systems can also help BPN monitor and resolve disputes more efficiently[42].

Cooperation with other institutions, such as the police, prosecutor's office, and courts, is also essential to ensure that decisions taken have legal solidity and are enforceable. BPN must liaise with institutions to ensure good coordination in land disputes[43]. Finally, BPNs need to encourage active participation from the community in the dispute resolution process. Periodically, socialization regarding land rights and dispute resolution procedures must be carried out to increase public understanding. Thus, the community can be more proactive in defending its rights and engaging in efforts to resolve disputes peacefully.

Prioritizing the Public Interest

The government must prioritize the public interest in forest management. This is important to ensure that forest management benefits certain parties and provides optimal benefits for the wider community. In addition, forest management approaches prioritizing the public interest must integrate environmental, social, and economic sustainability aspects. The government must ensure that forest management policies do not damage forest ecosystems and can maintain biodiversity. This can be achieved by establishing strict regulations regarding logging, land use, and forest conservation.

The government also needs to strengthen community participation in forest management. The active involvement of local communities, including indigenous peoples, can increase the effectiveness of forest management and ensure that the wider community can feel the benefits of forests. By involving the community in policy planning and implementation, the government can encourage the creation of a sense of ownership and shared responsibility in preserving forests. In addition, transparency and accountability in the forest management process must be well maintained. The government needs to provide adequate access to information for the public about forest management plans, permits issued, and the results of policies implemented. Thus, the public can monitor and supervise the implementation of the policy so that the potential for irregularities or corruption can be minimized[44]. The government needs to develop programs that support the sustainable development of local economies around forest areas. Through support for small and medium-sized enterprises based on forest resources, such as ecotourism, non-timber forest product processing, and sustainable agriculture, local communities can directly feel the economic benefits of forests[45].

Creating Openness and Supervision In dealing with conflicts of interest, openness is needed in handling and supervision. The government must provide clear and transparent information about decisions and actions taken and invite public participation in the decision-making process. This openness can be realized through a regular and comprehensive public consultation mechanism, where the public can provide their input and opinions. Thus, the decisions taken will be more accommodating to the interests of various parties and reduce the potential for

conflict. The government also needs to provide a digital platform that is easily accessible to the public to get the latest information on forest management policies and the development of their implementation[46].

Effective monitoring also requires collaboration with independent institutions and civil society organizations. These institutions can act as external supervisors to ensure that the government carries out policies with integrity and without irregularities. Periodic audits and public reports on forest conditions and policy effectiveness will also increase government accountability[47]. Furthermore, training and education for the community regarding their rights and how to participate in decision-making will be very beneficial. With a good understanding of forest policy and management processes, communities can be more proactive in monitoring and engaging in forest conservation efforts. If implemented consistently, these measures will help reduce conflicts of interest and build trust between the government and the community. Openness and public participation in forest management will create a more democratic and inclusive environment where policies genuinely reflect the interests and needs of all stakeholders.

Recognition and Protection of Customary Rights

The government must recognize and protect the customary rights of indigenous peoples in forest management. This is important to ensure indigenous peoples have clear and guaranteed rights in forest management. The government must recognize and protect the customary rights of indigenous peoples in forest management. This is important to ensure indigenous peoples have clear and guaranteed rights in forest management. Formal recognition of customary rights can be done by issuing certificates of customary property rights recognized by the state. This step will provide legal certainty for indigenous peoples in managing and utilizing their customary forests.

The protection of customary rights must be integrated into national forest management policies. The government needs to formulate regulations that support the sustainability of customary forest management, which includes the protection of traditional practices and local wisdom in forest management[48]. Thus, customary forests can be managed sustainably without neglecting indigenous peoples' cultural and social values. The government must also provide an effective complaint and dispute resolution mechanism for Indigenous peoples. This includes establishing particular institutions or committees tasked with dealing with issues related to customary rights and providing legal assistance to indigenous peoples in defending their rights[49]. This is a mechanism; Indigenous peoples will feel more protected and have fair access to dispute resolution.

Furthermore, the government must encourage indigenous peoples' active participation in the planning and implementation of forest management programs. Through this participation, indigenous peoples can significantly contribute to preserving forests while improving their welfare. Economic empowerment programs that focus on the use of non-timber forest products, such as ecotourism and forest products based on local wisdom, can be one solution to improve Indigenous peoples' welfare[50]. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the international community can also strengthen efforts to protect the customary rights of indigenous peoples. Support from these parties can take the form of funding, training, and broader policy advocacy so that the protection of customary rights can be implemented effectively and sustainably.

4. Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, the authors can conclude that differences of views and interests between the government and indigenous peoples cause forest interest conflicts in Indonesia. The government seeks to manage forests by national policies, while indigenous peoples seek legal recognition and protection of customary forests. Conflicts often arise because governments do not always pay attention to the rights of indigenous peoples in forest management, which can lead to injustice and confrontation. The impact of this conflict of interest is very significant. On the one hand, there are substantial economic losses, such as decreased agricultural and fishery productivity due to environmental degradation. On the other hand, uncontrolled wildfires can damage public infrastructure and disrupt local economic activities. In addition, social and ecological losses, such as loss of access to natural resources that are the source of livelihood for indigenous peoples, and irreparable environmental damage. The exciting findings of this study also found that the need for more clarity in regulations and policies regarding forest rights and ineffective public consultation processes add to the complexity of the problem. As a result, many customary forests have been converted to plantation or mining land without the consent of local indigenous peoples.

Therefore, the writers recommend that the government and indigenous peoples coordinate and communicate well to resolve the rights conflict. This can be done through dialogue and mutual agreement on sustainable forest management. Economic empowerment of the people, especially the communities around the forest, can be achieved by increasing the role of cooperatives and small and medium enterprises in forestry businesses. This will improve the welfare of the community and strengthen sustainable forest management. Governments must provide social and economic infrastructure enabling indigenous peoples to manage forests sustainably. This includes improving economic efficiency and developing the added value of forest products. The development of joint ownership can be a solution to overcome conflicts of rights. It involves governments and indigenous peoples working together on forest management, with indigenous peoples having the right to manage forests based on their customs.

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