

# The Impact of Independent Peat Care Village Program on The Socio-Economic Life of Community Groups in Banyuasin District South Sumatera Province

Riswani<sup>1</sup>, Thirtawati<sup>2</sup>, Yunita<sup>3</sup>

{riswani@fp.unsri.ac.id<sup>1</sup>, thirtawati@unsri.ac.id<sup>2</sup>, yunita@fp.unsri.ac.id<sup>3</sup>}

<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya, South Sumatra, Indonesia

**Abstract.** Independent Peat Care Village is one of the community empowerment programs to help restore peatlands by improving socio-economic life. Programs that involve community groups in peat areas tend to change the social and economic activities of communities that are usually carried out daily. This research aims to analyze the impact of Independent Peat Care Village Program on the socio-economic lives of community groups in the peat area of South Sumatera. The survey method was used in this research. The data collected from 100 respondents. Data processing uses a scoring method, the Miles and Huberman Model, with stages of data reduction, presentation and conclusion. The research results showed that most people state that this program is in the category of very direct benefits (social and economic life) but is still less useful when viewed from indirect benefits (peat restoration). The community feels the social impact more than the economic impact because the implementation of this program is preceded by problem identification activities, followed by the preparation of group plans, all of which involve the participation of community group members. Economically, the impact has not been felt because financial assistance is provided to groups, not individuals, and the provision of aid to improve the community's economic life is not continuous.

**Keywords:** Community Groups, Empowerment, Peatland Care Independent Village

## **1 Introduction**

Independent Peat Care Village Program is one of the community empowerment programs to help restore peatlands through improving socio-economic life, so that people who work on peatlands no longer damage peatlands and even help maintain their sustainability [1][2]. The programs involving community groups in peatland areas tend to change the social and economic activities of the community that are usually carried out on a daily basis [3][4]. In South Sumatra Province, this program is carried out in Banyuasin Regency, which was chosen because the land in this district has a lot of peatland cultivated by the community. The purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of Independent Peat Care Village Program on the socio-economic life of community groups in the peatland area of South Sumatra Province. This research needs to be carried out considering that the success and sustainability of programs that empower the community can generally be achieved if there is a balance of benefits obtained from social and economic aspects, as well as the Peat Care Independent Village Program

## **2 Background Theory**

Independent Peat Care Village (DMPG) is a community-based peat ecosystem restoration program that is carried out outside forest areas and outside concessions. The program encourages the empowerment of both men and women, including their economic potential in a sustainable manner [5][6][7].

The DMPG program is expected to be carried out by the village community with priority in 3 (three) programs, namely Rewetting, Revegetation and Revitalization. The three programs are expected to be able to help restore damaged peat ecosystems, optimize sub-optimal land and also revitalize community income from the proposed activities [8]. In addition, these activities are expected to be carried out in a sustainable manner in order to become an independent community and an economically prosperous society through the empowerment of peatlands as part of sub-optimal land [9].

Rice farming on sub-optimal land, one of which is peatland, does require special treatment ranging from land cultivation, the use of seeds and other production facilities with high production costs but still feasible to cultivate, for which a government program is needed for its empowerment [10].

The DMPG program is one of the programs that the government strives not only to restore peatlands, but also to help local communities to improve their economy through wise sub-optimal land management [11]. This means that the community makes other efforts without disturbing the existence of their peatlands, so that they are included in the revitalization group in peat restoration efforts. Livelihood revitalization aims to improve the welfare of people living around or on peatlands, one of which is by using peatland commodities in a sustainable manner, without drying and burning peatlands [12]. One example of such activities is the Independent Peat Care Village Program, and several other programs implemented in various peatland areas, including in South Sumatra.

### 3 Research Method

The survey method was used in this research. The data collected was primary data from 100 respondents involved in the program in Banyuasin Regency South Sumatera Province through interviews and focus group discussion methods and supported by relevant secondary data. The analysis technique used in this study is qualitative, namely counting the respondents' answers by analyzing the frequency of answers from the respondents using the help of SPSS software. Data discussion uses the Miles and Huberman Model, with stages of data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing [13] [14].

### 4 Research Result

Independent Peat Care Village (DMPG) Program in South Sumatra Province which is carried out in Banyuasin Regency in the form of a Community Empowerment Program through activities 1) Community Small Grant (Grants for the community), 2) Training 3) Mentoring.

1. Community Small Grant

This activity is carried out in the form of providing business funds of Rp. 200,000,000,- each group with a total of 3 groups in Banyuasin Regency, so that the total given for the implementation of this program is Rp. 600,000,000,-. The funds are used for cattle farming businesses operated by a community group called TKPPEG (Peat Ecosystem Protection and Management Work Team), to increase income as well as an effort to prevent the community from carrying out economic activities that have an impact on peat damage.

2. Training

This activity was carried out by providing technical training on business and business management, as well as technical efforts to protect and manage peat ecosystems properly, which was carried out by a team from universities as a partner of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia in South Sumatra.

3. Assistance

This activity was carried out by the Community Facilitator Team, namely fresh graduate scholars from various fields of science who were recruited to assist TKPPEG in carrying out assisted economic efforts and efforts in protecting and managing peat ecosystems in their areas

From these three activities, in measuring the benefits, the frequency of respondents' answers was varied, with the results of the percentage of answers presented in the following table.

**Table 1.** Results of Measuring the Benefits of the DMPG Program

Level of Benefits	Frequency	Percent (%)
Not Helpful	0	0
Less Useful	0	0
Quite Helpful	5	5
Useful	35	35
Very helpful	60	60

From the data above, it shows that the level of benefits felt by the community through the perception of the majority of respondents is in the very useful criterion (60%), the rest are in the useful criterion of 35%, and those who have a fairly useful perception are as much as 5%. This perception applies to the three empowerment programs that have been implemented through the Peat Care Independent Village Program. This is because these three programs are interrelated and complementary to each other, so that the categories of usefulness are all in a positive response [15] [16].

## **Social and Economic Impact**

### **1. Social Impact**

The measurement of the social impact on the community from the implementation of the Peat Care Independent Village Program in Banyuasin Regency is measured from the three activities carried out, which are described as follows:

#### **1) Community Grant**

In this activity, 84% of respondents stated that they agreed with the social impact felt on the grounds that it could increase group cooperation, and strengthen the relationship between members. The remaining 26% stated that they did not agree, on the grounds that not all members are given the same opportunity to play an active role in this activity so that there is no cooperation and friendship in the community. The results of the cross check showed that 26% who had a perception of disagreement were not satisfied with the level of activity in each stage of group activities.

#### **2) Training**

In this activity, 90% of respondents agreed with the social impact felt on the grounds that through this training there was an increase in knowledge and skills on livestock business techniques, financial and group management skills as well as business marketing management. The remaining 6% stated that they did not agree, and 4% stated that they disagreed, on the grounds that the training was carried out in too short time with too much material, so it was difficult to understand in a short time. From the results of the identification of respondent characteristics, it shows that these 10% are elderly members of the group, so they tend to be slow in the process of diffusion of innovation.

#### **3) Assistance**

In the mentoring activities, 90% of respondents agreed with the reason that mentoring activities make them able to understand and be able to practice, because they are guided and accompanied by professionals. However, there were 10% of group members who disagreed, on the grounds that the facilitators were not focused, because they were also doing other work during the mentoring.

### **2. Economic Impact**

As with social impact measurement, economic impact is also measured from the implementation of the three activities in the Peat Care Independent Village Program.

#### **1) Community Grant**

In this activity, 90% of respondents stated that they were concerned about the economic impact felt on the grounds that they could increase the income of group members from the profit sharing of group activities. The remaining 10% stated that they did not agree because they had not felt the additional income from the activity because they were inactive so that they received punishment and did not get additional income.

#### **2) Training**

In this activity, 60% of respondents agreed with the economic impact of this activity, arguing that through training activities, group members can do their business better so that their income will increase. However, as many as 20% stated that they did not agree, and another 20% stated that they did not agree, on the grounds that the training carried out could not be practiced so that it had not had an impact on economic improvement.

### **3) Mentoring**

In the mentoring activity, 60% of respondents agreed with the economic impact of this mentoring activity, arguing that through mentoring activities, group members can do business better so that income will increase. However, as many as 20% stated that they did not agree, and another 20% stated that they did not agree, on the grounds that the assistance provided could not be practiced so that it had not had an impact on economic improvement.

From the results of the cumulative research using the qualitative methods [17]. The impact of the Peat Care Independent Village Program carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia on the economic life of the community has not been felt so significantly by the community. This happens considering that the program is still not running optimally, because it has only It can be seen that the influence has been running for two years so it is not significant to increase income, in addition, although the assistance provided is going well, but the time period is relatively short (3 months), making group members not feel optimal. A comparison of social and economic impacts shows that social impacts are felt more by the community than economic impacts. This is because the value of assistance for economic improvement is considered relatively small for the number of people in need in one village. Both in terms of budget and routine and sustainability of the program. Another aspect shows that the economic program has not been implemented evenly in three villages in Banyuasin Regency. In the social aspect, the DMPG Program for the social sector is not only a momentary interest for individuals but is an investment of better resources for the general public in the future. This is quite reasonable because with the investment of resources, social life will be better in the future [18] [19]. In contrast to investment in the economic sector, which can indeed be seen directly by the current and future people, so that the results can be immediately addressed and criticized [20].

Furthermore, the Peat Care Independent Village Program with the category of Livelihood Revitalization Program, in addition to its main goal to improve the community's economy through livelihoods, is also aimed at helping the implementation of peat restoration. However, judging from the impacts caused, it can be seen that all the impacts of the majority only lead to direct impacts, namely the improvement of the social and economic life of the community. The indirect impact (peat restoration) has not been seen significantly, because there has been no change in peatland conditions. This is also because the majority of community livelihood activities are not carried out on peatlands. The majority of land with the peatland category in this area is still marginal land that is not cultivated.

## **5 Conclusions**

The research results show that most people state that this program is in the category of very direct benefits (social and economic life of the community) but is still less useful when viewed from indirect benefits (peat restoration). The community feels the social impact more than the economic impact because the implementation of this program is preceded by problem

identification activities, followed by the preparation of group plans, all of which involve the participation of community group members. Economically, the impact has not been felt because financial assistance is provided to groups, not individuals, and the provision of aid to improve the community's economic life is not continuous or is multi-year.

## References

- [1] Saputra, W., Hoiron, N, Nur A.S. Sekuritisasi Ekosistem Gambut Sumatera Selatan Oleh NGO : Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia 2014-2016. *Sriwijaya Journal of International Relations* Vol 1 No 1 (2021), p:85-100 (2021)
- [2] Triadi B.L. Restorasi Lahan Rawa Gambut Melalui Metode Pembasahan (Sekat Kanal) Dan Paludikultur . *Jurnal Sumberdaya Air*, Vol 16 No.2 November 2020 : 103-118 (2020).
- [3] Syahza, A., Osamu K., Sigit S., Mitri I, Kei M., Michiko H. Restorasi Ekologi Lahan Gambut Berbasis Kelompok Masyarakat Mandiri Melalui Revegetasi di Desa Tanjung Leban Kabupaten Bengkalis, Riau. *Riau Journal Of Empowerment*. Volume 4 (2), 69-81 (2021).
- [4] Yurisinthae.E , Dedi K, dan A. Hamid A.Y. Revitalisasi Mata Pencanharian Di Lahan Gambut: Kerajinan Anyaman Dari Purun Sebagai Salah Satu Bentuk Usaha Berkelanjutan Di Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI), Sumatera Selatan. *Jurnal Analisis Kebijakan Kehutanan* Vol. 16 No.1, Mei 2019 : 67-87 (2023).
- [5] Adji F, Sosilawaty, Untung D., Nidya, Kadek M.S., Khairunnisa, Fernandes. Implementasi Kebijakan Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional (PEN) Melalui Program Bina Desa Mandiri Peduli Gambut di Kawasan Eks PLG Sejuta Hektar Provinsi Kalimantan Tengah. *Jurnal Pengabdian Kampus* Vol 7. No.2, 55-63, Desember (2020).
- [6] Goib, B.K., Nadia F., Satrio A.W., Muhammad Y., Dessy A. Revitalisasi Mata Pencanharian Di Lahan Gambut: Kerajinan Anyaman Dari Purun Sebagai Salah Satu Bentuk Usaha Berkelanjutan Di Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI), Sumatera Selatan. *Jurnal Analisis Kebijakan Kehutanan* Vol. 16 No.1, Mei 2019 : 67-87 (2019).
- [7] Darwis, R. S., Resnawaty, R., & Hassanah, D. Peran Pemerintah dalam Kolaborasi Stakeholders pada Pelaksanaan Program Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). *Prosiding Penelitian Masyarakat*: 6(1), (2019)
- [8] Triadi B.L. 2020. Restorasi Lahan Rawa Gambut Melalui Metode Pembasahan (Sekat Kanal) Dan Paludikultur . *Jurnal Sumberdaya Air*, Vol 16 No.2 November 2020 : 103-118.T
- [9] Elvince, R., Herwin J., Iis Y., Sosilawaty. 2021. Program Pemulihan Ekosistem Gambut untuk Kesejahteraan Masyarakat di Desa Mantangai Tengah, Kecamatan Mantangai, Kabupaten Kapuas, Kalimantan Tengah. : *Jurnal Ilmiah Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat* Volume 6, Issue 5, Page 455–460 August 2021
- [10] Zulkarnaini, & Lubis, Z. E. 2018. Pemberdayaan Masyarakat dalam Pemanfaatan Ekosistem Rawa Gambut Secara Berkelanjutan. *Jurnal Kebijakan Publik*, 9(2), pp. 61-124
- [11] Riswani, Yunita, Thirtawati, Henny M. 2021. Development Model of Food Crop in Suboptimal Area Based on Farmers Corporation in Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra. *Journal of Suboptimal Lands* Vol. 10, No.2: 202–213 Oktober 2021. Online, [www.jlsuboptimal.unsri.ac.id](http://www.jlsuboptimal.unsri.ac.id).
- [12] Haq, M.Z.N. 2022. Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa Pada Lahan Gambut. *Prosiding Seminar Nasional 2 : Quo Vadis Restorasi Gambut di Indonesia*. Prodi Sarjana Administrasi Publik Universitas Andalas.
- [13] Ruiz-Lozano, M., Tirado-Valencia, P., Sianes, A., Ariza-Montes, A., FernándezRodríguez, V., & López-Martín, M. C. 2020. SROI methodology for public administration decisions about financing with social criteria. A case study. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 12(3): 1–16.
- [14] Aulya, R., Suryono, A., & Prasetyo, W. Y. 2014. Implementasi Program Corporate Social Responsibility Dalam Rangka Mewujudkan Sustainable Development di Bidang Lingkungan (Studi tentang CSR Joint Operating Body Pertamina-Petrochina East Java di Desa Rahayu , Kecamatan Soko , Kabupaten Tuban). *Jurnal Administrasi Publik*, 2(4): 608–612.

- [15] Sari, E. K., Mulyana, A., & Alfitri, A. 2016. Implementasi Program CSR Lingkungan PT. Semen Baturaja (Persero) Tbk Terhadap Kondisi Sosial Ekonomi Masyarakat Di Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu Sumatera Selatan. *Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan*, 13(1): 42.
- [16] Santoso, M. B., Adinegara, R., Ismanto, S. U., Mumajad, I., & Mulyono, H. 2018. Assessment of the Impact of CSR Implementation Social Investment. *Jurnal Pemikiran dan Penelitian Administrasi Bisnis dan Kewirausahaan*, 3(2):153–167.
- [17] Vebrianto, R., Thahir, M., Putriani, Z., Mahartika, I., Ilhami, A., & Diniya. 2020. Mixed Methods Research: Trends and Issues in Research Methodology. *Bedelau: Journal of Education and Learning*, 1(2): 63–73.
- [18] Ramadhoan. 2015. Analisis Dampak Program Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (Community Development) Pt. Sumbawa Timur Mining (STM) Terhadap Kehidupan Sosial±Ekonomi Masyarakat (Studi Kasus Di Kecamatan Hu,u Kabupaten Dompu). *Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan Vol.13, No.01 Juni 2015*
- [19] Yeny, I., Endang, K., Raden, G., & Renny, S. (2020). Strategi Pemanfaatan Lahan Gambut Berkelanjutan di Areal Ex PLG Kalimantan Tengah. *Jurnal Penelitian Hutan Tanaman*, 5(3), 248–253.
- [20] Harahap, F. I. N. 2018. Dampak pemberdayaan masyarakat melalui program biogas dalam mewujudkan kemandirian energi.JPPM (*Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*), 5(1), 41-50. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.21831/jppm.v5i1.18634>

**Acknowledgments.** Thank you to Universitas Sriwijaya through LPPM Unsri for funding this research, so that it can be completed on time and produce this publication.