



SETAPAK PROGRAM (Improving Forest and Land Governance)

Email : setapak2@tafindo.org
Facebook : Aksi SETAPAK
Twitter : @aksisetapak
Instagram : @aksisetapak
Website : www.programsetapak.org
Youtube : Aksi SETAPAK



Farmers in the village of Makroman, East Kalimantan had their farm land grabbed by a mining company

Achieving Gender Justice in Forest and Land Governance

The SETAPAK program promotes good forest and land governance as fundamental to achieving sustainable forest management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting low carbon economic growth. Gender justice is an overarching objective of the SETAPAK program. The program recognizes that gender justice needs to be prioritized across all processes, institutions and mechanisms of governance in order to promote and safeguard women's engagement and rights.

SETAPAK is supporting its partners to achieve gender just forest and land governance. This means engaging women and marginalized communities in all stages of land use and forestry decision-making, and recognizing and protecting the rights of women and marginalized communities to access and derive livelihood benefits from forests and land. In this way, the SETAPAK program is ensuring that steps towards improved forest and land governance also improve women's and men's human rights and wellbeing.

Instituting Safeguards and Protection Mechanisms in Laws and Policies

The rapid expansion of land-based and extractive industries, including palm oil plantations, timber concessions and mining operations, bring with them significant environmental and social impacts. These industries may disproportionately impact women and marginalized social groups negatively

resulting in the exacerbation of existing inequalities between women and men. Spatial and land use decisions must involve the engagement of women and marginalized groups, and environmental and social impact assessments should consider gender differentiated impacts to ensure that all social groups are protected against the impacts of negative development. SETAPAK is working toward gender just forest and land governance by instituting safeguards and protection mechanisms in laws and

policies, supporting grassroots women's leadership, and by strengthening civil society capacity to promote gender justice.

Women in local and customary communities face challenges in having their tenure rights recognized and protected due to gender-based discrimination in laws, customs and practices. This discrimination can limit women's ability to access and control land and forests, and to make decisions over its use. Despite the disproportionate negative impacts that land-based and extractive industries bring to women, negotiations over the release of land for these industries often do not actively involve women. National and sub-national laws and regulations may undermine women's customary access or use rights to land and forests, such as by formalizing land rights in the name of the male household head, which may consequently diminish women's power within a household or a community. SETAPAK partners are being supported to ensure that women's forest access and use needs are protected when local and indigenous communities' tenure rights are formalized.

SETAPAK facilitated a collaboration between the Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law (ICEL) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to ensure implementation of the central government's policy target of securing 12.7 million hectares of community managed forests. As a result of ICEL's efforts, the Ministry issued a regulation no. 83 of 2016 on 7 November 2016, setting out processes for the formal recognition of community-managed forests. As a result of ICEL's advocacy, the regulation includes clauses Paragraph 1, Clause no. 15, and Paragraph 58, Clause no. 4, Section H, which set out requirements mandating women's involvement in local forest management institutions, and guaranteeing women derive benefits from community-managed forestry.

Information commissions play an important role as an oversight mechanism, including to ensure that government agencies respond to information requests as mandated in Indonesia's 2008 Freedom of Information Act. SETAPAK partners have been working to ensure that provincial information commissions are established, and that suitably qualified information commissioners are chosen for these important governance roles. In Aceh, where women's roles in public decision making processes are limited, SETAPAK partner MATA lead a network of CSOs to investigate information commissioner

applicants are recruited according to merits-based criteria. MATA also supported women to nominate themselves as candidates for information commissioner roles. As a result of MATA's work, of the five people elected by the governor to become information commissioners in Aceh, two are women. These women are viewed by CSOs to have credibility and integrity as information commissioners.

Supporting Grassroots Women Leaders

Women's roles in the forest sector tend to be invisible and informal, and women's management practices and knowledge of their forests and land are frequently not reflected in governance mechanisms and decision making forums. To improve women's engagement in forest and land use decision making, SETAPAK is strengthening women's leadership at the community level. By working through local partners to provide training and skill development, the program is encouraging local women to engage in political processes and contribute to increased government transparency and accountability in forest and land management decisions.

Through a partnership with NGO Sajogyo Institute, SETAPAK is supporting women's empowerment through the sponsorship of community organizers in ten villages across the provinces of Aceh, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan and Central Sulawesi. Community organizers lived in villages where local communities are dependent on forests and natural resources that are under threat from expanding plantation, timber or mining industries. Equipped with extensive training programs and on-going mentoring, these organizers worked to build women's capabilities throughout the village. This includes working with the most marginalized members of communities to ensure that all women understand the environmental and social impacts the village faces from industry expansion. The organizers also help women develop strategies for action in response to the impacts villagers face. A key strategy in each location has been to strengthen women's livelihoods through sustainable farming techniques which can increase women's income and enhance their social status. Studies indicate these strategies are key to enhancing women's power and ability to participate in decision making forums at the household and local community level.



Training local women farmers on accessing public information about land-based industries threatening their farm land in Aceh (Source: MATA, Aceh)

Developing Civil Society Capacity to Promote Gender Justice

Civil society organizations in Indonesia are working hard to slow deforestation and improve poor governance, however there is growing concern that they lack the ability to address these disproportionate impacts on women and marginalized communities. The SETAPAK program is supporting civil society organizations to understand the gender dimensions of poor forest and land governance, and to consider gender justice in their theory of change. By initiating cross-sectoral learning by developing networks between experienced gender-focused

organizations and environmental governance focused organizations, the program is growing civil society capacity to understand gender issues, and to design strategies that will lead to gender justice forest and land governance outcomes.

Already since June 2016, 178 people – consisting of 63 women and 115 men – have participated in gender related training sessions with SETAPAK support. This has included the training of twenty women farmers in the districts of Aceh Tamiang and Aceh Besar whose farm land has been destroyed by expanding palm oil plantations. Following the training, women farmers submitted an information request and when no information was provided they pursued an information grievance through the Aceh information commission.

In Musi Rawas district, in South Sumatra, Walhi South Sumatra have supported women whose farm land has been grabbed by a timber plantation company. With Walhi South Sumatra's support, women reported the land grab to the Human Rights Commission, and to the Presidential Taskforce on Land Conflicts, calling for an investigation and resolution of the land conflict.

SETAPAK partner organizations are also supported to implement a comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure that both their advocacy and policy strategies are gender sensitive, and impact positively

Women taking a leading role in forest management

In Nusantara village, in the district of Ogan Komering Ilir, South Sumatra, palm oil companies are approaching village elites to acquire the village's remaining 1,200 ha of forested and farm land. The Sajogyo Institute community organizer located there has trained local women in organic and sustainable farming techniques to enhance their farming yields in order to diminish the appeal of releasing land for palm oil which offers only short-term financial gain but significant long term negative livelihood and health impacts. In a fishing village in Tojo-Una-Una district, Central Sulawesi, a community organizer has supported five women padan palm left weavers to work together to discuss the threats to their sources of padan palms, used to weave baskets and hats. In Sempaja, East Kalimantan, a community organizer has supported an inter-village solidarity network of women to push for abandoned mining pits to be closed over as a way of ensuring the prevention of further child drownings.

SETAPAK partner SAMPAN, in West Kalimantan, pushed for the release of ten village forest (hutan desa) areas in Padang Tikar, in the district of Kubu Raya. Each hutan desa has its own management committee. SAMPAN has ensured that women have a formal role in the management committee by placing a community organizer in each village. This has led to the establishment of a number of women's working groups that assist women in negotiating with the hutan desa management institution, as well as contributing to policy and land use decisions.

on women and men. To guide the program's gender mainstreaming work, SETAPAK has provided gender analysis training to ten activists. These activists are located in the provinces of Aceh, Riau, South and Central Sumatra, and West Sumatra, as well as in Jakarta. These trained activists act as the program's 'gender focal points', advising and guiding each partner organization to ensure that their strategies consider the gender implications of their work, and continually work towards gender-justice outcomes. Alongside their mentoring work, gender focal points in these five provinces will also facilitate para-legal training for local women with leadership potential. This will help to build their knowledge of forest and land related laws and policies, and support them to report land use and forestry violations.

Supporting Gender Sensitive NGO Strategies

The SETAPAK program's gender analysis training is having an impact on the approaches and strategies that NGO partners use to guide their work. An example is with JATAM East Kalimantan, who have significantly increased gender equity in their organizational management structures, including ensuring women are represented on their organizational board. JATAM East Kalimantan are also engaging the parents of children who drowned in abandoned and unprotected water-filled mining pits. With JATAM East Kalimantan's support, the mothers of child victims have taken a leading role in directing campaigns to push for mining reform. Following her son's death, Mrs Rahmawati, the mother of the ninth child to have drowned in a mining pit in East Kalimantan, went to the company office to demand that the site be filled in so that no further deaths could occur. When no improvements to the mining site took place, Rahmawati was

supported by JATAM East Kalimantan to pursue justice further by collecting over 11,000 signatures for a Change.org petition that she presented herself to the Minister for Environment and Forestry, and the Indonesian President, at a meeting in Jakarta.

As a result, the mine site was finally filled in by the responsible company, removing immediate danger to the lives of children who live only several hundred metres from the site. Emboldened by this achievement, Rahmawati is now working with other parents of children drowned in mining pits to have the remaining 150 abandoned mining pits in the city of Samarinda closed over. According to Rahmawati, the support of JATAM East Kalimantan has been key to her developing the confidence and understanding of the legal system that allowed her to pursue justice. 'I don't think I would have had the confidence to continue my struggle through the legal system. If it hadn't been for JATAM I would not have known how to do that', said Rahmawati.

With JATAM's support Rahmawati became one of the claimants in a request to the Constitutional Court for a judicial review of the East Kalimantan spatial planning bylaw. The legal case for the judicial review request is led by a coalition of SETAPAK partner NGOs, including ICEL at the national level and JATAM and AMAN in East Kalimantan. The coalition requested that the court review several articles in the 2016 Bylaw on Spatial Planning for 2016-2036 related to allocation of public farmland and areas of fragile karst systems for mining and industrial plantations. Mrs Rahmawati's legal standing against the East Kalimantan spatial plan was as a mother, who had experienced the death of her child due to dangerous abandoned mining operations located within metres of residential areas. This violates Indonesia's laws that mandate mining operations must be located further than 500 metres from residential areas.

The Asia Foundation's SETAPAK program, funded by the UK Climate Change Unit, is focused on improving forest and land governance in Indonesia. As well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global climate change, the program helps Indonesia's decentralized governance ensure transparency and accountability in the management, protection and distribution of benefits from natural resources with the intention of achieving sustainable economic growth.



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