

## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN COASTAL AREAS**

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*Received : 17 September 2022*

*Reviewed: 9-20 October 2022*

*Accepted: 5 November 2022*

### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to describe the efforts of the community and local governments in environmental conservation. The design of this study uses a qualitative approach with the research method used is descriptive-qualitative. The study location is in the villages of the coastal area of Barru Regency. The determination of informants is carried out by purposive sampling. Data analysis uses qualitative descriptive data analysis. This process takes place by paying attention to the principle of triangulation, namely the triangulation of source data. The results of the study showed that community participation in environmental conservation through local institutions located in coastal villages was not well organized due to poor cooperation that runs between community members in local institutions and poorly organized work programs in environmental conservation. This can be seen from the activities carried out jointly in a large part of the environmental conservation work program of local institutions located in the villages of the coastal area of Barru Regency. It can be seen that there is a tendency among existing local institutions to be reactive solely in environmental conservation when monitoring programs will be carried out when environmental problems actually need to be carried out regularly.

**Key Words:** Participation, Local Institution, Environment conservation, Coastal area

### **INTRODUCTION**

As a developing country with great natural wealth, Indonesia urgently needs a development pattern that is environmentally and socially sound and economically equitable. But this task is not easy. Agenda 21 agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992 and the Sustainable Development Summit in Johannesburg, 2002 are important means for Indonesia to achieve such sustainable development. In fact, the

National Agenda 21, which contains references to incorporate sustainable development principles into national development planning, is still unsatisfactory and is still constrained by the lack of public awareness and political will of the government to implement them. In addition, some experts mention the root of the problem, including the absence of a single perception of management and lack of coordination in regional spatial planning (KLH, 2003).

For this reason, in 1997, the Government of Indonesia issued Law No. 23 of 1997 concerning Environmental Management, where the emphasis of this Law is on the importance of community participation in environmental management. However, in its implementation, various fields of development in Indonesia, such as settlements, agriculture, plantations, industry, mining, and forestry still show degradation/decline in environmental quality. Thus, that excessive exploitation of nature without taking into account its tolerance limits needs to be prevented so that the risk of environmental damage can be reduced as small as possible.

In some areas in South Sulawesi Province in order to maintain the balance of ecosystems and knowledge to preserve the environment, generally the community is still doing it in an inappropriate way. This is always due to the urge to exploit natural resources to meet their needs. So that at several points of coastal areas in this area, it can be seen that many mangrove forests have been converted into ponds, industrial areas, tidal rice fields, and settlements.

Similarly, at some points in rural land areas, people who are generally brave and courageous carry out land clearing without taking into account the damage caused. Then at some points the highland areas were cleared forest areas and replaced by plants that did not match the carrying capacity of the land. As a result, erosion occurs and the fertile upper soil layer will disappear and critical land will slowly occur. The damage to the environment, has an impact on the loss of basic habitat and its function, where this loss is far greater than the value of its replacement (Dahuri et al., 2001), and is a social burden that ultimately the community and local governments have to bear the cost of recovery.

On the other hand, all the indifference, inequality, carelessness and ignorance of the community in the preservation and management of the environment mentioned above show the fundamental weakness of the institutional structure of the community in this area as a forum for community participation. Thus indicating that various community institutions such as religious institutions, youth, farmers and others have not paid serious and special attention to the problem of environmental conservation and management in South Sulawesi and the resulting impact on the lives of the community at large. Therefore, it is necessary to explore more deeply the role and involvement of community institutions in handling conservation in this area. As well as the efforts, strategies, and policies needed to enhance the role of these community institutions.

The low role of community institutions in environmental conservation and

management is thought to be due to the incompleteness of environmental management and preservation information that reaches them. So it is also suspected that the level of public knowledge about the importance of environmental conservation is still low which causes their participation in these institutions to be low to carry out environmental conservation in their area.

It is hoped that through this research there will be anticipation to restore environmental conditions and create an ecosystem or coastal environment that is suitable for life can be done through the role of community institutions located in coastal areas so that the community as the main component of driving environmental conservation through existing institutions in their area. For this reason, knowing and explaining as follows 1) The role of local institutions in handling environmental conservation; 2) Identify and analyze efforts made by local governments to increase the role of community institutions in environmental conservation.

## **METHOD**

The design of this study uses a descriptive-qualitative approach, which is research that aims to reveal the process and interpretation of meaning and leads to the disclosure of the state or behavior of individuals who are obsessively obsessed. The research location is in Tanete Rilau District which is one of the areas in the Barru Regency.

The determination of informants is based on information from Village/Kelurahan officials and Field Agricultural Extension Officers or BPP Coordinators, community leaders, youth leaders. The informants who have been interviewed are then asked about the farming community that can be used as the next informant (sociometric techniques). Then the informant is determined by purposive sampling.

Primary data collection is carried out through in-depth interviews, using interview clues or question lists, observations play a role. The data analysis method used is qualitative data analysis. The first stage of qualitative analysis carried out is data reduction that focuses on selecting, simplifying, abstracting and transforming rough data from field notes. The second stage is the presentation of data. The third stage is the drawing of conclusions based on the reduction and presentation of data. Qualitative data analysis in this study uses inductive methods. For this reason, this study does not test hypotheses, it is more of an abstraction based on sections that have been collected and grouped where data analysis begins from data collection and is carried out more intensively after returning from the field. All available data is processed, reduced and abstracted so that units of information are formed which are then interpreted and processed into conclusions.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Environmental conditions in coastal areas of the study site**

The residential conditions of the Pancana village community are divided into two areas, namely the provincial road axis area and the coastal area. In the axis area of the provincial road, the residential conditions of the people in this hamlet seem to be in order, because almost all communities already have yard fences, both made of bamboo, and living fences or flowers. On the other hand, environmental conditions in part of settlements still need improvement, especially the residential environment around agricultural land and riverbanks because if the rainy season arrives settlements and agricultural land are threatened with flooding caused by overflowing river water, in addition to flooding events are also caused by channels / drainage has not been smooth. Similarly, in coastal areas, there is still a lot of community housing below the standard of healthy homes.

Related to the issue of environmental improvement. For hamlet areas around the coast, it seems that they are still not well organized, most of the community settlements have not been maintained. The dominant type of community house in this village is a stilt house that has one living room, and an average of two bedrooms and one kitchen room, and there is a small part of the community house that does not have a bedroom.

The lack of environmental knowledge is quite influential in imparting knowledge to their children. This is seen in almost all households in Pancana village located around the coastline which generally disposes of liquid waste generated every day by being allowed to flow under household kitchens that are generally stilted houses, without special storage holes. As for solid waste, generally, every household throws it around the side yard or back of the house. Even though there is already an MCK that is used to dispose of *hajatan* for the community, these facilities are still lacking so that for defecation needs most of the people in the coastal area of Pancana still use their backyards, gardens, beaches, and even waterways by digging holes or not at all. Only a small part of the community already has a family latrine or makes a makeshift latrine built by themselves in their own homes.

Currently in Pancana village there is a fishing port and a Fish Auction Place. This fishing port is actually prospective enough to increase the Original Village Income and PAD of Barru Regency but the management is not good. This can be seen from the absence of sanctions for ships that dispose of diesel oil waste and garbage in the sea, making the aquatic environment dirty and dirty and one day it can be dangerous for marine life and mangrove plants that live around coastal areas. In addition, it can cause the death of shrimp and fish cultivated by village communities in the anchorage area. This can also be seen in fish auction places where garbage is thrown into the sea by fishermen and fishmongers.

## **2. The Role of Local Institutions in Environmental Conservation in Coastal Areas**

Nowadays, natural resources and the environment have become scarce due to excessive extraction over-exploitation and lack of attention to sustainability aspects. Although it can economically increase the selling value, on the other hand, it also poses a much greater threat of ecological losses, such as land loss, scarcity of clean water, floods, landslides, and so on.

With the existence of community institutions as the strength of rural resources, this should be used to overcome the damage that often occurs and will occur. So that synergy of community institutions in the region is needed in order to preserve the environment that is coordinated at the institutional level of the grassroots community, both before or after the occurrence of environmental damage.

Community institutions at the grassroots level in terms of environmental conservation can actually be a vital role actor by forming a series of bridges that construct coordination networks in other local community institutions.

Sustainable development according to the Report of the World Commission for Environment and Development, 1987, is development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The implementation of sustainable development absolutely needs to be carried out environmental management. Man and his behavior are the main factors for maintaining the existence and well-being of all living beings. Therefore, improving education and improving the professional skills of all development actors needs to be prioritized.

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It can be seen that the lack of role of community institutions in environmental conservation is due to the lack of knowledge about the environment from the community in Panpana village, Tanete Rilau district. Education plays an important role in the development of human resources. Environmental education is an effort to increase knowledge, awareness, understanding, attitudes, and sensitivity in behavior as citizens of society that affect the survival of individuals and other living beings, and in acting in accordance with their expertise and skills (Anonim, 2004).

Therefore, in order to realize a sustainable environment, it is very important for environmental education in all sectors and all levels of education, both formal and non-formal. Because environmental education is not only needed by several institutions or expertise directly related to environmental management, but it can be said that

environmental education is needed in all institutions and all skills, to varying degrees (Anonim, 2004).

The lack of involvement of community institutions in environmental conservation in Pancana village, Tanete Rilau District, also shows that environmental management is not yet an obligation of the people living in the coastal area of Pancana village. In fact, as a stake holder, this community institution should be directly involved either in groups or individually. This is as outlined in the results of the Workshop on The Development of the Concept of Human Resource Competence in the Environmental Sector that stake holders involved in environmental management both directly and indirectly include the community, both as individuals and groups.

It can be seen that in addition to the Ta'lim Assembly, cooperation, solidarity, mutual aid activities among members of community institutions such as farmer groups, cadets, and the PKK are decreasing. This degradation is influenced by the absence of programs, the poorly organized community institutions, weak management and the impact on the diminishing activities of these institutions. This shows that the weakening of social capital among the members and administrators of these community institutions and the village community in general.

According to Putnam (2000), social capital is very important in social life because social capital allows citizens to solve collective problems easily. Because it may be better to solve a problem by working together where each member of the community contributes them to solving the problem. And it is better if the solution of the problem is through an institutional mechanism that has the power to accommodate all aspirations for the establishment of common behavior.

When social capital refers to the institutions, relationships and norms that make up the quality and quality of a social interaction in society. So social capital is not only the sum of a number of institutions that support or foundation a society – but also as a glue that maintains their unity (World Bank, 1999). This is in line with growing evidence that social cohesion is a criticism of societies their success both economically and for sustainable development.

Social capital is the ability to cooperate in dealing with all problems, to achieve goals in a group or organization. And the asset of a tendency for mutually beneficial collective action, where society is endowed with diversity. So that people who have a certain amount of social capital allow them to participate in mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors. Meanwhile, people with low levels of social capital are people who are less able to organize themselves effectively (Putnam et al., 1993 ; Putnam, 1995 ; Fukuyama 1995).

Thus, it shows that the lack of sustainable environmental preservation by community institutions is due to the degradation of social capital in these institutions. Because a community group or community institution built with social capital is the

result of the development of active, participatory social relations, and emphasizes a sense of community belonging and mutual trust (Fukuyama, 1995).

The malfunctioning of village government organs, such as the Village Consultative Body (BPD) and the Community Empowerment Institute (LPM) where these organs as a place for the community to participate in development, especially in environmental conservation programs, are due to the lack of environmental conservation programs in these community organs and the low involvement of the entire community in participating in the creation of development programs in their villages.

According to Oakley (1991) interprets the form of participation in village development on four aspects. (1) participation in decision-making and implementation of community-friendly programs, as well as participation in assessing their success. (2) participation in the form of voluntary donations to other parties for the construction or mobilization of funds. (3) participation as an organized effort to supervise and control the allocation of resources in government activities. (4) advocacy participation to influence the direction and policies, development programs and projects to improve the welfare of the community.

The efforts of the Barru local government through relevant agencies also appear to be lacking in environmental conservation in coastal areas. This is shown by the decreasing number of community empowerment programs related to the preservation of the coastal environment. The afforestation program with the replanting of mangrove trees through training was carried out but only once. Meanwhile, agricultural, fisheries and forestry counseling at the farmer group level has rarely taken place because the funds needed in the implementation of the extension program are increasingly underallocated in the APBD of each relevant agency.

Au niveau des agents de vulgarisation agricole sur le terrain, il y en a de moins en moins après l'existence de l'autonomie régionale, beaucoup d'entre eux sont passés à des agents structurels dans les organismes compétents et ne sont plus des agents fonctionnels sur le terrain. En fait, ce programme d'autonomisation est très nécessaire pour que la communauté puisse ajouter ses idées sur le maintien de la conservation de l'environnement et les impacts causés par l'exploitation illégale des forêts de mangroves par les communautés autour de la forêt.

Through empowerment programs by local governments, there will basically be many benefits because empowerment is a contribution to the development of community capabilities to ensure the achievement of the point of self-actualization independence. This concerns knowledge, skills, attitudes and assets owned. By Narayan (2002), empowerment is simply defined as increasing the assets and ability of marginalized communities to negotiate, influence, control and encourage accounttags in institutions that affect their lives.

## CONCLUSION

The role of various local institutions in environmental conservation in coastal areas is still low due to the poorly organized local institutions, the absence of programs related to environmental conservation in coastal villages in the Tanete Rilau District.

There is a tendency among existing local institutions to be reactive solely in environmental conservation when monitoring and state holidays are going to be held when environmental issues are actually carried out regularly.

The weakening of cooperation between the management and members of most local community institutions has made mutual aid activities less carried out by communities in coastal villages in the Tanete Rilau District.

There is a decrease in coastal community empowerment programs by Barru district agencies related to environmental conservation along with the reduction of village programs related to this.

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