

# Involving local communities in forest carbon projects implementation in Meru Betiri National Park

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# Structure of presentation

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- Project objectives
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# Project site: Meru Betiri NP



# Why Meru Betiri National Park?

- Problem:
  - illegal harvest of timber and non timber forest product from the Park, for example : medicinal plant
  - Land encroachment, especially during 1998 - 2000
  - No legal guarantee for local communities who rehabilitate forest land in the Park, to get long term benefit
  - National Park area is forbidden for local community

# Why involving local communities

- Local communities have developed at least 6 models of agro-forestry in the Park to do rehabilitation about 3000 ha of degraded forest land.
- Agro-forestry help reducing carbon emission through reforestation of degraded land
- Agro-forestry increase carbon stock because it consist of trees which has high biomass
- Boer dan Hendri (2002) research on agro-forestry in Meru Betiri concluded that agro-forestry developed by local communities have potency to contribute to give benefit about USD USD 1,078 up to USD 4,396 per hectar.

# Project objectives

1. To improve the livelihoods of local communities living inside and in the surrounding area of Meru Betiri National Park (MBNP) through participation in avoiding deforestation, degradation and biodiversity loss
2. To develop a credible measurable, reportable and verifiable system for monitoring emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in Meru Betiri National Park (MBNP).

# Plan to involve local communities

- **Participation of community in conservation forest management improved**
  - Review existing schemes and lessons learned from the surrounding areas
  - Carry out stakeholders consultations to identify the most viable scheme to the MBNP
  - Enhance stakeholders process for implementing the scheme
  - Replicate and scale up lessons learnt and good practices gained from previous activities
- **Alternatives sources of income to improve the livelihoods of local communities living inside and in the surrounding area of Meru Betiri National Park (MBNP) developed**
  - Enhance potential economic activities through community forest partnership program
  - Promote community-based forest enterprises for domestication and plantation of potentially valuable species of the MBNP
- **Illegal logging and forest encroachment reduced and reported**
  - Conduct awareness raising program
  - Conduct training for community leaders, police and other local government staff on MBNP protection.
  - Enhance community level institutions to reduce illegal logging and empower them

# How far have local communities been involved?

- **Participation of community in conservation forest management improved**
  - Review existing schemes and lessons learned from the surrounding areas
    - at present there have been 2.250 ha critical land reforested. The number of trees planted has been 186.600 consisting of 30 types. The number of people participating has been 3625 family units organized in 105 groups.
    - LATIN and local communities have done an inventory of plant which is planted in rehabilitation area of the Park. There are 2250 ha of land which is planted by 186.666 trees from 30 kind of fruit trees, such as durian, *pete* (stinky bean), manggo, rambutan, *jambu* (guava), and lemon; some medicinal plants such as *kedawung*, *joho lawe*, *joho keling*, *pakem*, *bendo*, *kemaitan*, *mindil*, *aren*, *kepuh*, *selasih*, *jambe*, *kemiri*, *cabe jawa*, *kemukus*, *pule pandak*, *jahe*, *temulawak*, *temukunci*, *temumangga*, *sambiloto*, *harendong*, *kumis kucing*, etc.; and 9 kind of bamboo.
    - There is no legal agreement between local communities and Meru Betiri NP manager
  - Consultation with stakeholder, especially local communities
    - Discussion with local communities leaders and KAIL (local NGOs who facilitate local communities).

# How far have local communities been involved?

- **Alternatives sources of income to improve the livelihoods of local communities living inside and in the surrounding area of Meru Betiri National Park (MNP) developed**
  - Enhance potential economic activities through community forest partnership program
    - The potential benefit of crops, fruit trees and medicinal plants which has been planted since 2000 is big. LATIN calculated all farmers get Rp 9 billion per year from corn production in 2250 ha of land. Now farmers start to get Rp 1 million per person per season from fruit trees in average. The income will increase when big harvest time is come in 2009 or 2010. LATIN also facilitated local community to develop small scale business group in order to manage the benefit from the crops, fruit trees and medicinal plants product. There are 32 from 105 groups has been established.

# How far have local communities been involved?

- **Illegal logging and forest encroachment reduced and reported**
  - *Access over the Park land and increasing of income from the Park make the local community think and feel that they should protect the forest from illegal activities. This is proven by the local community when they report illegal activities in the Park, such as illegal logging, hunting, harvesting of turtle eggs, and involve preventing forest fire.*

# Lessons Learned

- Local communities can involve effectively in carbon project if it is supported by the following factors:
  - Local communities can optimally play its roles to avoid deforestation if it is admitted by the government. Forest management policies issued should give the chance to the people to take part actively in the forest management, and the people get the long term assurance of their rights and benefits from the forest area they are cultivating.
  - Strong community organization and institution
  - Critical thinking of the communities on conservation and carbon policy
  - Capacity to access information on carbon issue
  - Available joint agreement that clarifies the rights, responsibilities and benefits of stakeholders in collaborative forest management.