

The Role of Social Management In Oil Palm Land Conservation In Preventing Land Conversion In Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Abstract.

The Role of Social Management, Oil Palm Land Conservation, and Land Conversion Prevention in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi. This study analyzes the role of social management in oil palm land conservation efforts to prevent continued land conversion, resulting in a decreasing area of productive oil palm land, which occurs in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi. The study aims to identify effective social management strategies, examine supporting, inhibiting, and successful factors, and recommend appropriate policies, efforts to increase community participation, and maintain the sustainability of oil palm land. The research method used is a qualitative case study approach, namely a single case, data collection techniques in the form of interviews, observations, and documentation studies. The results of the study indicate that social management plays an important role in the success of land conservation and preventing land conversion, success is influenced by several factors, such as community participation, government support, and access to information and technology. The study recommends increasing community capacity through training and counseling, strengthening community institutions for managing land to become economically valuable, and reducing oil palm land conversion in Bumi Raya District. In conclusion, sustainable participatory social management by local communities is key to the success of oil palm land conservation efforts and the prevention of land conversion in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency.

Keywords: Management, Social and Land Conversion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as an agricultural country, has great potential in the plantation sector, one of which is oil palm plantations. Uncontrolled development of oil palm plantations often has a negative impact on the environment, one of which is land conversion. The conversion of oil palm land is a serious problem that threatens environmental sustainability and the economic sustainability of the community. Encouraging sustainable land management strategies, including the implementation of effective social management, is needed. Land use tends to increase due to increasing population and developments in economic structures, leading to land conversion to meet land needs for various interests. The conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural sectors is experiencing rapid industrial development, resulting in land conversion not being a regional problem (Conversion of Agricultural Land to Industrial Land in the Regency et al., 2020).

Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi, is one of the regions with extensive oil palm plantations. In Bumi Raya District, the problem of land conversion for oil palm plantations is a challenge that needs to be addressed. Population growth is accompanied by increasing demands for basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter). Food and clothing needs are usually derived from agricultural production, while housing needs generally come from natural resources (Ayunita et al., 2021). The research focuses on the role of social management in oil palm land conservation efforts and preventing land conversion in Bumi Raya District. The research aims to examine how social management contributes to maintaining environmental sustainability and the economic sustainability of the community in Bumi Raya District. It also contributes to the development of more sustainable oil palm land management strategies in Indonesia, specifically in Bumi Raya District. The following shows the area of oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, as follows:

Table 1. Availability of Oil Palm Land in Bumi District, Morowali Regency

No	Year	Land area	Information
1	2021	2.939,52 Ha	Productive land
2	2022	2.939.51 Ha	Productive land
3	2023	2.939.51 Ha	Productive land
4	2024	2.780.69 Ha	Productive land
5	2025	2.779.19 Ha	Productive land

Source: Central Sulawesi Agriculture Service, 2026

The table above clearly shows a decline in the area of oil palm plantations in production over the past five years. Land conversion in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi, has resulted in various negative impacts, both environmental and socio-economic. Specific information regarding the types of land conversion occurring in Bumi Raya, the resulting impacts can be categorized as follows: ecosystem damage, conversion of forest land, agricultural land to monoculture plantations (such as oil palm, which may be a focus in Bumi Raya District), causing biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and hydrological changes. Disrupting ecosystem balance and reducing environmental carrying capacity. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in intensive agricultural activities pollutes surface and groundwater sources, negatively impacting drinking water quality and the lives of aquatic organisms. (Idham & Mukhtar, 2024).



Fig 1 : Oil palm plantations in Morowali Regency

Land conversion increases the risk of soil erosion and sedimentation in rivers and water bodies, damaging infrastructure and aquatic ecosystems. Replacing land with different vegetation cover alters the local microclimate, increasing air temperature and decreasing humidity. This triggers conflicts between local residents and companies or investors managing new land, particularly regarding land access, employment opportunities, and profit sharing. This can lead to the loss of livelihoods for communities dependent on natural resources, such as farmers, fishermen, or forest product collectors. Income inequality: Benefits from land conversion are often unevenly distributed, exacerbating income inequality between certain community groups. Infrastructure damage: Unplanned land conversion damages roads, irrigation, and waterways. It is important to consider the impacts of land conversion and efforts to address land conversion (Region & Environment, n.d.).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Land conservation is an effort to manage natural resources wisely and maintain sustainable utilization. The success of land conservation depends not only on technical and social aspects. Social management plays a crucial role in achieving effective and sustainable land conservation. (Fadjrih Asik, n.d.) The common pool resources (CPR) theory, the management of shared resources such as land can be done effectively through participatory social regulation mechanisms. Emphasizing the importance of local rules, community participation, oversight mechanisms to prevent the tragedy of resource exploitation). In the context of land conservation, CPR shows the importance of involving local communities in planning, land management ensures sustainability (Mustopa et al., n.d.)

Environmental justice emphasizes the importance of a fair and equitable distribution of environmental benefits among all community groups. In the context of land conservation, theory demands that land conservation program policies do not disadvantage certain community groups, such as poor or

marginalized communities dependent on land resources. Fair and inclusive social management is essential to ensure environmental justice in land conservation efforts. (Region & Environment, n.d.)

Community participation emphasizes community involvement in decision-making processes and the implementation of land conservation programs. Active and meaningful community participation enhances a sense of community ownership and responsibility for land sustainability. Effective social management can facilitate meaningful community participation and ensure that voices are heard and considered. This includes how social change occurs, and how social, economic, and political factors influence change. In the context of land conservation, it is used to understand how changes in behavior and social norms are triggered to support land conservation efforts. Effective social management must be able to manage the social changes that occur, ensuring that these changes support land conservation efforts (Conversion of Agricultural Land to Industrial Land in the Regency et al., 2020).

The concept of institutional capacity demonstrates that the success of social management of land conservation also depends on strong institutional capacity. Institutional capacity includes the ability of related institutions (government, formulate policies, implement programs and oversee implementation. Effective social management must be able to build and strengthen institutional capacity to support land conservation efforts. Social learning is a process in which individuals, groups learn from experience, the context of land conservation, social learning is used to increase knowledge, public awareness of the importance of land conservation and encourage the adoption of sustainable land conservation practices. Effective social management must be able to facilitate social learning among stakeholders. Social management is the key to successful land conservation. The application of theories and concepts, helps design and implement effective social management strategies to support sustainable land conservation efforts, (Ayunita et al., 2021).

III. METHODS

The qualitative research method for a single case study of oil palm land conversion in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi, utilizes an in-depth research approach to comprehensively understand a phenomenon within a unique context. Unlike quantitative studies, which aim to generalize, single case studies emphasize contextual understanding and the complexity of a specific case. This approach is useful when researchers want to explore in detail a unique event, program, or individual that cannot be easily replicated. A key characteristic of a single case study of oil palm land conversion in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi, is its emphasis on an in-depth understanding of the context in which the phenomenon occurs. Historical, social, cultural, and political factors are all considered to provide a holistic picture (Idham & Mukhtar, 2024).

Data collection aims to achieve a comprehensive understanding, with common methods including in-depth interviews, participant observation, document analysis, and artifact analysis. Data triangulation, the use of multiple data collection methods to validate findings, is essential in this single case study of oil palm land conversion in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi. Data analysis is interpretive, with themes generating meaning within the data, building a deeper understanding of the case studied. Qualitative data analysis techniques include thematic analysis, interpretive analysis, identifying patterns, themes, and meanings. They present findings in a detailed and structured manner, including case descriptions, research methods, key findings, and research implications. They provide an in-depth and contextual understanding of complex phenomena (Adfar, n.d.).

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Social management is a key factor in the success of sustainable land conservation for oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi. Success depends not only on the technical aspects of land management but also on the ability to manage social, economic, and political influences. The theories of common pool resources, environmental justice, community participation, social change, institutional capacity, and social learning provide a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding oil palm plantation management in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi.

The application of the principles of CPR theory, through participatory, fair, and inclusive mechanisms, encourages a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the sustainability of oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District. This theoretical framework is context-specific and considers the diversity of socio-economic and cultural conditions in Bumi Raya District to develop effective and sustainable land conservation strategies (Dewa Gede Ari Pelayun & Made Rai Sukmawati, n.d.; Region & Environment, n.d.).

This in-depth analysis discusses social management, environmental sustainability, and economic sustainability in Bumi Raya District. It examines the contribution of social management to environmental sustainability and the economic sustainability of communities in Bumi Raya District, which has significant potential, particularly in the context of oil palm plantation management in Indonesia. This in-depth analysis requires a more detailed understanding of several key aspects:

1. Social management, in the context of Bumi Raya District, encompasses community participation in decision-making, oversight mechanisms, and local regulatory systems, a combination of several elements, including community, entrepreneurs, and customary law (Idham & Mukhtar, 2024). The most important indicators are valid and reliable data analysis. Indicators include the level of community participation, decision-making forums, the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms, and compliance with local regulations (Made et al., n.d.). Social management is measured and how the data is collected. Appropriate statistical analysis is needed to test the relationship between social management indicators and environmental sustainability and the economic sustainability of.
2. oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District, Morowali Regency. Environmental sustainability: It is necessary to identify environmental sustainability indicators relevant to the context of oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District. Indicators include water quality, biodiversity, soil erosion levels, and greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to determine how they are measured and how the data are collected. This study aims to demonstrate the relationship between social management and environmental sustainability indicators (Idham & Mukhtar, 2024). Does better social management contribute to improving the quality of The analysis must identify the mechanisms linking social management with environmental impacts caused by the conversion of oil palm land in Bungku Barat District, Morowali Regency.
3. Economic sustainability: Defining economic sustainability within the context of the community in Bumi Raya District. Indicators of economic sustainability can include community income, market access, economic resilience to shocks, and employment opportunities. This study demonstrates the relationship between social management and economic sustainability indicators, which contribute to increased community income, market access, and local community economic resilience (Idham & Mukhtar, 2024). It also identifies the mechanisms linking social management to the economic impacts of oil palm land conversion in Bungku Barat District, Morowali Regency.
4. Interrelationships: Analyzing the interrelationships between environmental sustainability and economic sustainability. Whether improving environmental sustainability contributes to improving economic sustainability, and vice versa, and identifying synergies and trade-offs between environmental sustainability and economic sustainability, as seen in the function of oil palm land in Bungku Barat District, Morowali Regency. Whether any compromises need to be made.
5. Policy implications: Providing specific, measurable policy recommendations to improve social management of oil palm land management in Bumi Raya District. Recommendations should be based on research findings and consider the local context. Evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of proposed policy recommendations. How these recommendations can be implemented effectively and sustainably.

V. CONCLUSION

The significant potential for contributing to local community income through oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District. Regional economic development, coupled with management policies, has resulted in the conversion of oil palm plantations in Bumi Raya District, and the availability and sustainability of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. Successful prevention of land conversion depends on clear operational definitions, valid and reliable measurements, and a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the relationship between

social management, environmental sustainability, and economic sustainability in Bumi Raya District. It is important to consider the context of the role of local communities and involve stakeholders in the process of maintaining oil palm plantations. Research and implementation of policies related to preventing land conversion in Bumi Raya District are necessary.

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