



## Community-based Area Management (WKR)

Strengthening and Enhancing the Recognition of Community-based Area Management in Realizing and Protecting the Rights to A Healthy, Fair, and Sustainable Natural Resources and Environmental Management in Indonesia

Over the past 30 years, WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia has promoted the concept of a “Community based Forest Management System”, which privileges the role of local and indigenous communities in ensuring the responsible and sustainable management of natural resources. WALHI developed this model of community based forestry management as a direct response to the destructive impacts caused by a forest management system based on corporate rather than community interests; in Indonesia, ample evidence shows that forestry management which over-privileges corporations has led to the over-exploitation and commodification of natural resources by externalizing negative impacts on the environment, communities, and climate.

In 2014, WALHI expanded this concept into Community-based Area Management (WKR), which further included not only forest areas, but also small islands and coastal areas. Since then, WALHI has promoted the WKR as a concept and model which ensures that local communities are integrated and free to participate in the governance, management, production, and consumption of local resources.



Paddy rice cultivation in peatland ecosystem, in Pontianak, West Kalimantan.

This management system recognizes the wisdom and knowledge of local communities in understanding how to manage local resources; it also acknowledges that because nature is the basis and source of local values and knowledge, its responsible management will thus promote and enable prosperity, justice and sustainability for all.

Having resided in their customary homes and regions for generations, local communities have developed rich, and sometimes irreplaceable knowledge in understanding how to maintain natural resources without damaging them. Indigenous and local knowledge has in effect enabled communities to develop deep ties and connections to their land and homes, as the unsustainable use of local resources would have jeopardized their survival.

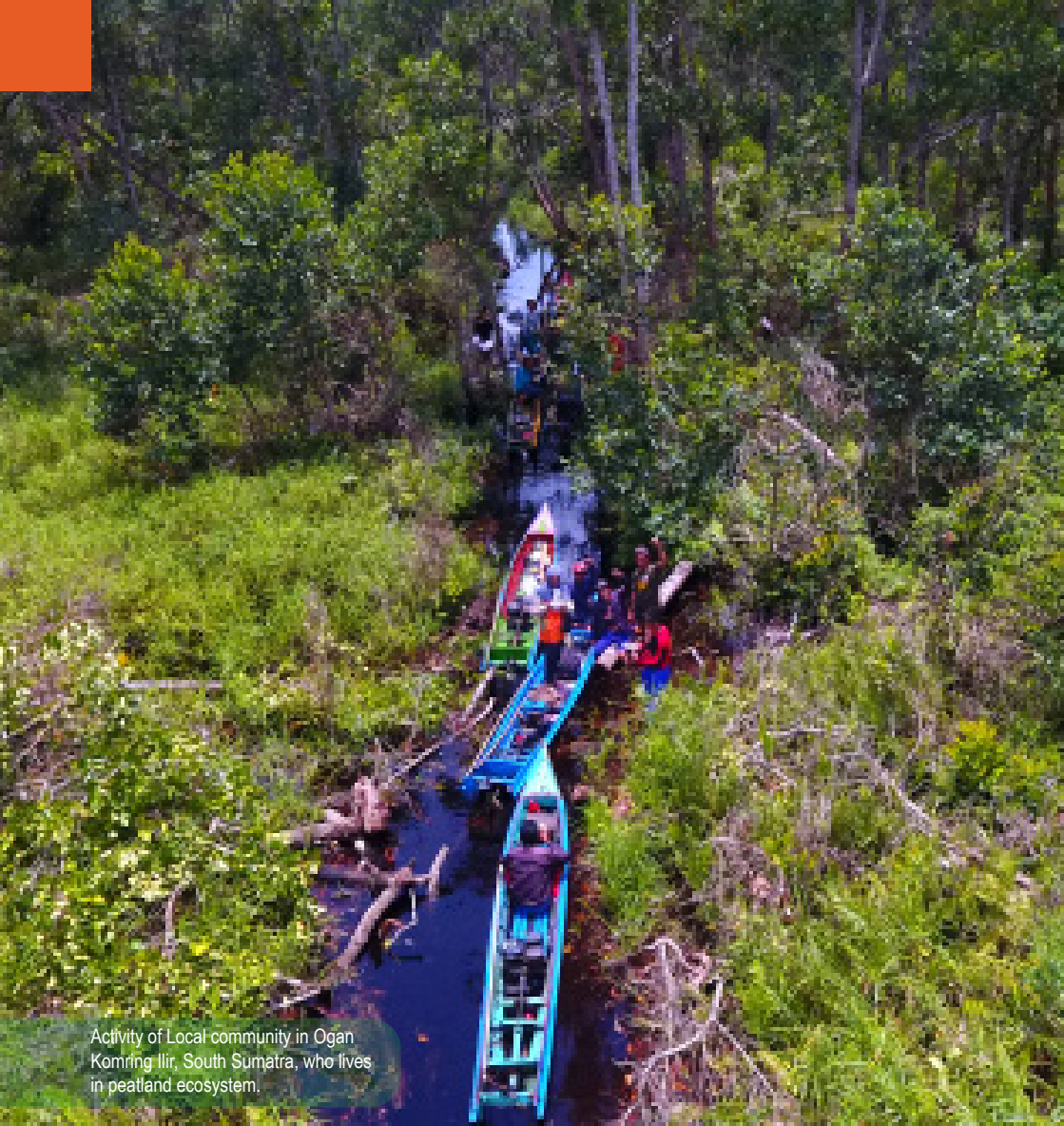


President Jokowi (middle) and his entourage visited Sungai Tohor Village, in Kepulauan Meranti, Riau, during the forest fire that hit the area in 2014. Wak Nung (left), one of the local community from Sungai Tohor, explaining about the making process of sago noodle, one of the local commodities from Sungai Tohor Village. The cultivation sago, or locally known as Rumbia, on peatland area helps to boost the economy of local community while preserving the peatland ecosystem.

## Four Pillars of Community-based Area Management:

### Governance

This system is related to territorial control policies both on land and waters by local communities. As an important component to support the basic life of the community, this governance has many problems that must be resolved immediately, such as in the case of overlapping forest areas claimed between the parties and aspects related to land tenure injustice.



Activity of Local community in Ogan Komring Ilir, South Sumatra, who lives in peatland ecosystem.

## Management

The management system controls the utilization of rural area. Although spatial planning regulations have included elements of environmental management, given the diverse geographical conditions, it cannot be applied properly in the field. Spatial planning for each area, such as natural forest, secondary forest, Savanna and Karst area has different methods and approaches. Therefore, it is important to conduct an in-depth study through looking the carrying capacity of the environment, values and wisdom of the village community.





The activity of local community in Pulau Pari, North Jakarta, cultivating seaweed that has become one of their local commodities.

## Production

This system regulates the production process of local commodities such as food, traditional clothes, energy, etc, based on the potential that exists in the local area to increase the welfare of community. The production process must pay attention to the carrying capacity of the environment and natural resources in order to not increase risks and create new problems for local communities and their environment. In this context, it is also important to regulate community relations (producers) with outside parties (consumers) in the fair trade corridor.



During Festival Pesona 2018 in Jambi, WALHI Jambi took role in participating to promote the local products of local community. In this event, WALHI Jambi raised environmental awareness and protection toward Sumatra's last jungles. They also gave an understanding on natural resources management based on local wisdom that has been passed down from time to time.

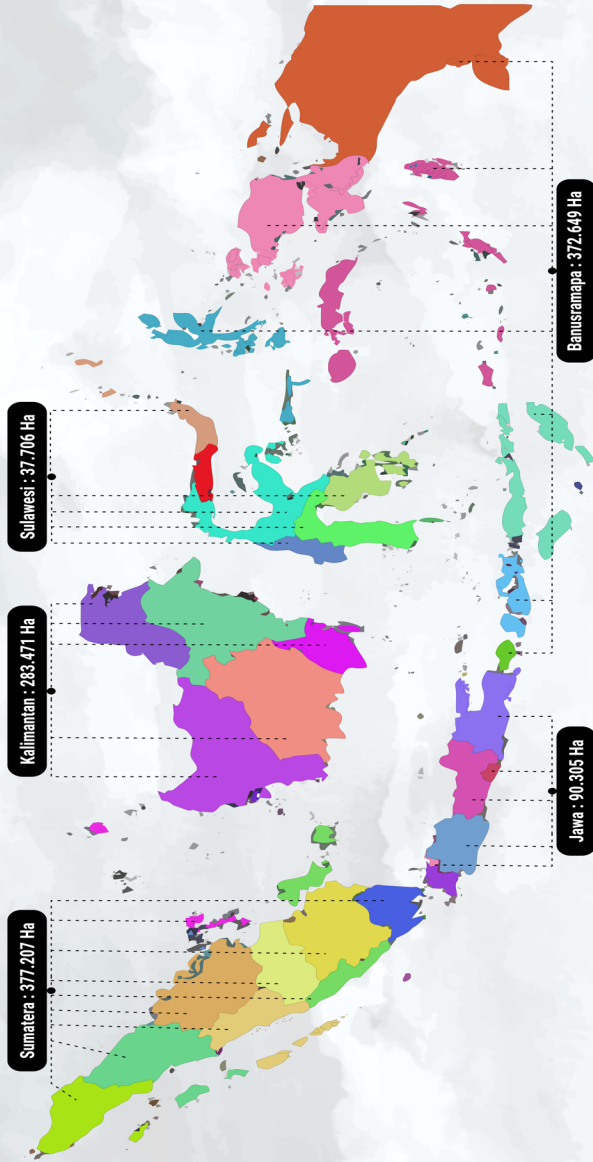
## Consumption

The consumption system has two main targets; regulation of local consumption pattern that should be able to strengthen relations between local communities with their potential commodities; and the regulation of product distribution of local communities that must provide added value to the village community as producers.

**PETA SEBARAN  
WILAYAH KELOLA RAKYAT**  
(Perhutanan Sosial dan Tanah Objek Reforma Agraria (TORA))

Total Luasan Wilayah Kelola Rakyat : 1.161.338 Ha  
Total Kepala Keluarga Pengelola : 161.019 KK

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia  
2022



Sumatera : 377.207 Ha

Kalimantan : 283.471 Ha

Sulawesi : 37.706 Ha

Jawa : 90.305 Ha

Bantamapa : 372.649 Ha



Penerima Manfaat/Pengelola PS dan TORA per Region :

1. Sumatera : 55.625 KK
2. Jawa : 68.566 KK
3. Kalimantan : 24.719 KK
4. Bantamapa : 5.274 KK
5. Sulawesi : 6.884 KK



Status Hukum PS dan TORA :

1. Sudah Ada SK : 154.265 Ha
2. Belum Ada SK : 1.007.073 Ha



Luas Perhutanan Sosial :

1.042.181 Ha



Luas Tanah Objek Reforma Agraria (TORA) :

119.157 Ha



Lokasi Perhutanan Sosial dan Tanah Objek Reforma Agraria yaitu pada 28 Provinsi, 101 Kabupaten, 184 Kecamatan dan 309 Desa.

**Map of WKR Distribution**

In 2014, Indonesian government targeted at allocating 12.7 million hectares of forest to be managed by communities through Social Forestry (PS) permits, which include *hutan kemasyarakatan* (community forestry), *hutan desa* (village forests), *hutan tanaman rakyat* (community plantation forests) and *hutan adat* (indigenous forests), and *hutan kemitraan* (partnerships forest).





The women of Silit Village, West Kalimantan, farm in their daily lives.

In 2022, the total area of WKR managed by assisted communities of WALHI has reached 1.161.338 ha, which is divided into two schemes: the Social Forestry Scheme, which covers 1.042.181 ha, and the Agrarian Reform Scheme, which covers 119,157.36 ha. A total of 161.019 households from 28 provinces benefit from the protection and development provided by this Community-based Area Management, which is distributed across 101 regencies, 18 districts, and 309 villages.

The biggest challenges in efforts to protect and develop the Community-based Area Management are the existence of state regulations that are not in favour of the people, the dispute for land between state and private corporations controlled by oligarchs, limited resources owned by the community and supporting institutions so that currently, out of 1.161.338 ha Community-based Area Management assisted by WALHI, only an area of 154,265 hectares that have permits and legalities in the form of social forestry and agrarian reform. Most of the area of 1.070.073 Ha is still in the submission stage or in the process of technical verification for approval.

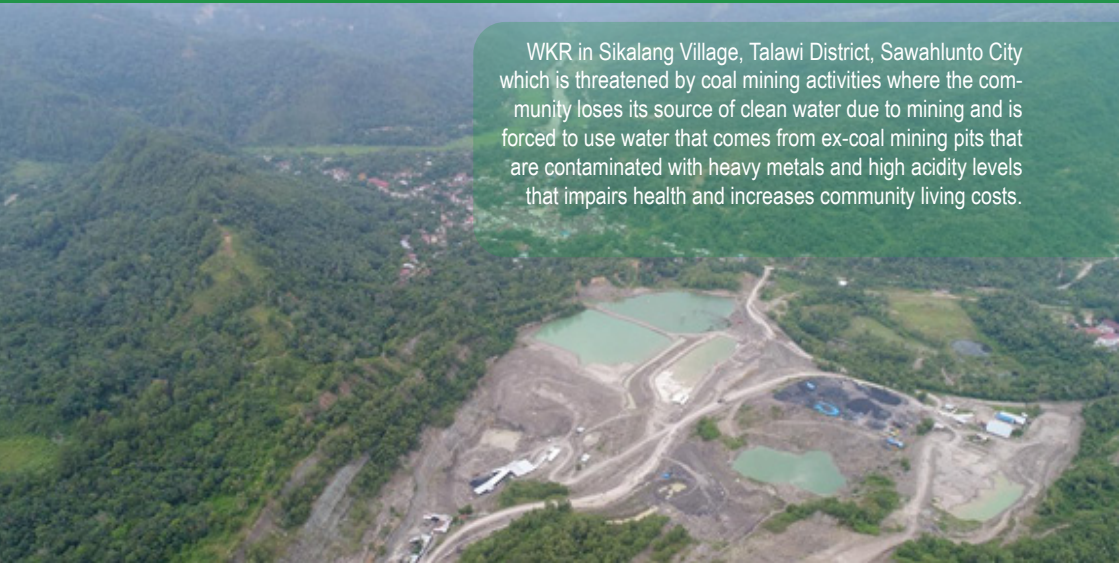




The leader of the Mentawai Indigenous People who still maintain local wisdom and customs in the protection and utilization of their natural resources amid the threat of dispute of the concession by industrial forest plantation companies on Siberut Island, Mentawai Islands Regency.

## Legal Assistance and Lawsuit

WALHI's efforts to protect WKR are not only in terms of ensuring state recognition of the managed area that is already occupied and becomes the community's living space through a scheme that has been provided by the state. But also standing alongside the people to ensure that the rule of law and law enforcement functions properly.



WKR in Sikalang Village, Talawi District, Sawahlunto City which is threatened by coal mining activities where the community loses its source of clean water due to mining and is forced to use water that comes from ex-coal mining pits that are contaminated with heavy metals and high acidity levels that impairs health and increases community living costs.

Throughout 2016-2021, WALHI has assisted communities in conflict over an area of 521,718.38 hectares related to infrastructure development and national strategic projects, plantations, forestry, tourism, mining and energy. And carried out 38 lawsuits in which 25 cases were filed by WALHI and 13 cases were filed by WALHI together with the community and network. Of the 38 lawsuits, 20 cases were won by WALHI, 11 cases were lost and 7 cases are still being processed in court.

Fig 3. A farmer who is a member of the Green Gapoktanhut (Association of Forest Farmers Groups) in Hijau Desaku, Bengkulu Province.



### ***Ekonomi Nusantara as a Solution***

An important step in the protection and development of WKR is to ensure that the developed production and consumption system does not only look at the economic value to be achieved but is also based on four binding values, they are: (1) the relationship of past glory with current conditions; (2) the relationship of local economic practices with the surrounding ecological landscape; (3) integration of economic practices with social and environmental aspects; and (4) has a recovery dimension from socio-ecological crisis conditions. This is defined by WALHI with the term *Ekonomi Nusantara*.



*Ekonomi Nusantara* Practices as a normative-empirical concept of local economic practices, are rich in sustainable values either economically, environmentally, or socially. In its implementation, local communities maintain the existence of food sources and their livelihoods by continuing to plant main food crops in the midst of the onslaught of the monoculture agricultural system that sells the dream of increasing the global economy. However, it failed to encourage food self-sufficiency at the local level.



Fig 4. Female farmers harvesting rice in Papan Loe Village, Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi

It is also critical to increase the added economic value of WKR's products. WALHI supports this by providing capacity building and manufacturing support, as well as a marketing network for the community's processed products.





The process of sorting ripe coffee cherries (Red Cherry) by two farmers who have just harvested in the work area of the Pattaneteang Village Forest, Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi.



Green bean coffee sorting process by Akar Tani Cooperative, Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi.



Processed products and other products of Bantaeng Coffee



Promotion of coffee products from WALHI and AP2SI assisted WKR displayed at the Coffee Enchantment Festival of Agroforestry, Jakarta

In addition to coffee, the Nusantara's Archipelago is also known as a producer of spices which can also be processed into various products with added value for the community's economy. One of them is Nutmeg (*myristica fragrans*).



The Bayang Bungo Indah Women's Group in Nagari Kapujan Koto Barapak, West Sumatra is processing the nutmeg skin produced from the Nagari Forest into Nutmeg Syrup



As a manifestation of WALHI's efforts to increase the capacity of assisted communities in managing WKR, AP2SI (Indonesian Social Forestry Management Association) was formed in 17 WALHI assisted provinces in Indonesia. And to support the marketing of WKR products, WALHI has also established a cooperative Adil dan Lestari whose members consist of regional and national components.









WALHI works to maintain the ecological balance and deliver a sustainable environment. Support us by donating below :

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**WALHI (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia)**

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