

Installation of Clean Energy Electricity for Dayak Paser Indigenous People, INDONESIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Forest exploitation in Lumut Mountain for timber products has been happening since 1980s. Development of commercial crop plantations such as oil-palm, rubber, hybrid coconut, among others have emerged as well. As a result, tenure conflicts are raising between the community and company owners.

PADI is an non-governmental organization focused on sustainable development of natural resources that since 1989, has been working with 15 communities in Paser, East Kalimantan, including the Muluy indigenous group.

In 2002, PADI together with the Muluy indigenous people initiated a program to facilitate a community participatory work plan that was proposed to GEF SGP Indonesia for a planning grant. Through the process, the community identified the potential of using clean energy as the tool for forest conservation and in contrast to the massive logging activities of the area. It was also identified that the project would allow the Muluy people's to stop using the diesel generator (200 liter/month) that was donated by logging company.

The independence from the logging company will strengthens the bargaining position of the local communities to defend their customary-protected forest against commercial use and unwise utilization.

As a result, the Muluy community developed a project to install clean energy electricity from micro-hydro in an effort to ensure sustainable and community-based conservation of the Gunung Lumut forest. The project was supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP.

The project also aimed to raise awareness and develop the capacity of the local community to develop non-timber forest products (NTFPs).



Project Name:
Fencing Forest with Electricity

Database title:
INS/05/78

Executing NGO:
Yayasan PADI Indonesia

Project dates:
Dec 2005-Dec 2006

SGP grant amount: US\$ 43,358

In-Kind cofinancing: US\$4,221

In-Cash cofinancing: US\$10,421

BACKGROUND

Lumut Mountain is a serene moss forest where almost all of its soil, rocks, and trees are covered by carpet of moss. The temperature of the mountain, that is located in Paser District -East Kalimantan, is very humid and wet. This mountain is a vital water catchment area that supply water for farming and industry while also serving as a means of transportation.

Due to its rich biodiversity and mineral resources, this 35,350 hectares of Lumut Mountain primary forest is threatened by natural resource exploitation by the presence of HPHs (Forest Concession) mainly for palm plantations and gold mining. Indigenous rights for equality and forest management are not respected.

Kampong Muluy is a customary area located in Lumut Mountain Protected Forest. The indigenous people of Muluy, sub-ethnic of Dayak Paser indigenous group, live in Kampong Muluy and they have

a long history of conflict with the regional government.

The main cause of dispute is because, according to them, the area is their customary forest. It is this unsettled conflict that still prevents land conversion in the area.

Muluy is a group of forest-dependent-people. They highly depend on Lumut Mountain as their source of livelihood and supplier of environmental services. These include nontimber forest products such as herbal medicine, honey, rattan, fruits, and fish.

The mountain has provided them with abundant sources of livelihoods instead of merely depending on farming and plantation. To them, forest is similar to "breast milk". If they fail to protect the forest, then it's equal to disrespecting their mother.

Such principle is highly valuable especially considering that Muluy is one of the outermost villages, which is the entrance to the area. If the village lets their land be converted, slowly but surely the other villages will follow.

IMPLEMENTATION

The community installed a micro-hydro plant, powered by the Muluy River, that produces 9,000 watts of electricity, of which only 8,000 watts are usable after travelling 4 km to the villages.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

After the plant was commissioned by the Head of Paser District in 2006, the electricity is used by 55 households, 1 community-based forest coffee industry, 1 small mosque, and a school.

With this micro-hydro, the Muluy community has to maintain the water flow and therefore no exploitation activities are allowed in the forest.

The community is responsible for monitoring and ensuring forest protection and also for maintaining the micro-hydro plant. Women groups also participate in the process.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Through the project, the Muluy people secure the customary rights to manage 8,000 hectares



of the area.

5,000 hectares have been allocated for customary forest and the rest for housing, community-based plantation, rice-fields, etc.

In addition, the community received training on forestry, micro-hydro and use of NTFPs.

POLICY IMPACT

The impact of the project in terms of policy can be seen in the success of the community to secure customary rights to manage an area of the forest.

The indigenous group of Muluy is advocating to the government to to have community-based tenurial rights and continues to fight for their involvement in the management of the forest.

In addition, the project has triggered the interest and support from various stakeholders. After the commission of the power plant, the local government of the Paser District bestowed IDR 100 million (around USD 11,000) for the Muluy people to help them with some additional infrastructure needed to make the power plant more efficient.

The local government also expressed their intention to create similar projects in other areas of the Paser District.



PADI and the Muluy people are often involved in surveys and feasibility studies of water debit and micro hydro potency in the area.

SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the project is ensured through the strong involvement and participation from project design to implementation of the indigenous community, along with the tangible economic and livelihood benefits that the community is receiving from it.

Also, as a result of the project, other institutions such as IUCN and the Samdhana Institute have committed to support the Lumut Mountain ecosystem, including the Muluy people and its surroundings.

IUCN is focused in advocating that the government acknowledges the customary law and community-based forest management of the Muluy.

The Samdhana Institute is supporting the socialization of

REDD+ programmes in the area, due to the rich condition of the forest.

REPLICATION AND UP-SCALING

This project has not been replicated, however the local government is interested in creating similar projects in other areas of the Paser District.



LESSONS LEARNED



The project demonstrates that indigenous communities can have an active role in protecting the forest and in managing forest resources in an effective way.

It also proves that once the community is given the chance to get organized in a participatory way, and has access to finance and technical guidance, it can achieve tangible results and leverage support from government and other counter parts.

Appropriate training on forestry and NTFPs is important to raise awareness and develop the capacity of the community.

Community Action... Global Impact

