

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CO-MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ON COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

Andi Amri

Faculty of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, Hasanuddin University, Indonesia

E-mail: andiamri@fikp.unhas.ac.id

Abstract

Co-management is defined as the sharing of responsibility and/or authority between the government and local people to manage a specified resource, e.g. mangroves, fishery, coral reefs, etc. The purpose of this study is to show the significance of community participation and co-management strategy on coastal resource management with specific reference of mangrove conservation program in Sinjai District of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Community participation is generally promoted as the most relevant efforts to involve local people in many developmental schemes and environmental conservation programs and becomes a key element of co-management strategy. However, this study reveals that getting into local people and institutions also represents a key task for those implementing the projects and programs. Since mangrove conservation requires long-term maintenance, participation of local people is highly required in order to take care and manage the planted mangroves for the long range period. To involve local people in mangrove conservation and rehabilitation program, their expectations in both short-term and long-term economic benefits obtained from mangrove rehabilitation and conservation should be taken into account by the governmental institutions for sharing their responsibility and/or authority in co-management arrangement. Short-term economic benefits such as financial support from the government are important factors in order to promote environmentally-sound activities of the people. However, the long-term economic benefits derived from the mangrove plantation, such as providing property rights on mangrove lands, should also be taken into consideration in order to lead the local people to “self-mobilization participation”. This study concludes that focusing on the economic advantages of local people seems inevitable when the participatory or community-based approach or co-management strategy would be implemented.

Keywords: Community participation, mangrove conservation, co-management strategy, coastal resource management, South Sulawesi