



Newsletter
AgFor
 SULAWESI
 Agroforestry and Forestry

January 2016

In this issue:

Indonesia's Kajang indigenous community achieves land rights

Agroforestry farmers' field schools spread the word effectively

When former farmers become extensionists: experience from Gorontalo

The benefits of a mangosteen mixed garden

Newsletter AgFor

published by:

Agroforestry and Forestry
 in Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi)

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Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi) is a five-year project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada. The World Agroforestry Centre is the lead organization of the project, which operates in the provinces of South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and Gorontalo.

Indonesia's Kajang indigenous community achieves land rights

By: Amy Lumban Gaol, E. Linda Yuliani, Micah Fisher



Kajang community members dressed in traditional clothing in front of their traditional house. (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre/Amy Lumban Gaol)

The Kajang indigenous people of Bulukumba, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia have finally overcome the long impasse over recognition of their customary land.

After several years of meetings, consultations and regulatory proceedings, the council plenary meeting of the Bulukumba District Legislature announced on 17 November 2015 that a District Regulation (the Indonesian acronym is P3MHA) will recognize and protect the land rights of the Kajang people.

Conflict between the Kajang and outside development interests (including the private sector and state-backed interests) began decades ago when the Kajang forests were gazetted as state property with a status of Limited Production Forest in accordance with Minister of Forestry decrees of the 1990s. Designating forests for production purposes means that they are constantly under threat of conversion to some other land use in the name of development. For the Kajang, their particular forest held profound significance. There were complex rituals, customary laws and penalties observed with regard to the forest, which were defined by the Ammatoa, the Kajang customary leader.



A woman is weaving black cloth, which is the main color and material in everyday clothes Kajang people. (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre)

The first draft of the regulation was prepared by the Bulukumba Forestry Agency in 2008 but had suffered setbacks because of a lack of public participation and bureaucratic support. Five years later, the regulatory environment had changed. The Indonesian Constitutional Court's decision No. 35/PUU-X/2012 stipulated that 'adat' or customary community forests no longer fell under the jurisdiction of the national forest estate. The Court's decision implied that governments at multiple levels must formulate the necessary policies for recognition of adat peoples. This landmark decision created the necessary momentum to start the process again from the early drafts of the Kajang local regulation.

For the Kajang people, the Court's decision presented a significant opportunity for legitimation, specifically, for their deeply-rooted belief in the cultural value of natural resources, particularly, their forest. The Kajang are highly observant of their customary rules, often consulting more closely with local unwritten codes than any formal state laws or regulations. They strongly believe that the balance of nature is deeply connected to the forest, which is also tied closely to the health and survival of the community. Over the course of time, however, the Kajang have been excluded access to government programs owing to their distinct differentiation; and development decisions made on behalf of the public interest did not always fit with Kajang self-identification. Revisiting a formal regulation under a rights-based approach allowed for more pluralistic governance processes to emerge.

Various institutions contributed to the formulation of the draft regulation, including in the collection of data and preparation of supporting documents: the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara) in South Sulawesi, Balang NGO and the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor) project's Governance team (from

the Center for International Forestry Research). The participation and roles of these institutions were formalized through Bulukumba District Decree (SK Bupati Bulukumba) no. 760/VII/2013 on Formation of the Formulating Team for the Draft District Regulation for Recognition of Customary People in Bulukumba.

As part of a multi-stakeholder and consultative team supporting the regulatory drafting process, AgFor partnered with Balang to contribute various studies, such as a stakeholder analysis, categorizations of tenure, classifications of formal and informal access rights, cataloguing of forest policies, and due consideration of the various cultural practices. These studies provided important information to the many people who needed to be included in a robust participative approach to drafting a complex regulation on adat rights.

One of the objectives of AgFor is to increase awareness, understanding and technical capacity among various stakeholders to conduct land management in a participative matter and to apply the principles of governance to these processes. In the drafting of the regulation, AgFor provided training in facilitation of collaborative processes in the face of complex problems, conflict-resolution techniques, designing questionnaires and interviews regarding best practices, participatory mapping, database development, data analysis, and how data can be linked to policy development. The various participants in these training sessions included representatives of the Kajang leadership and other community members, village and sub-district staff, members of the district's Forestry Agency and Tourism and Culture Agency, the Legal Bureau of Bulukumba, and several NGOs.

In providing technical support to the drafting process, AgFor and Balang also actively helped the comprehensive academic studies that contributed to the foundations of the regulation. Furthermore, AgFor provided support through documentation and analysis of the broader learning process, which has been detailed in a series of academic publications and AgFor policy briefs.

Many meetings, both formal and informal, took place throughout this process, which included dialogues, discussions, seminars and collaborative research initiatives at different levels: national, provincial and district. Since the beginning of the drafting process in 2008, the different stages involved numerous people in an intensive and dynamic process.

Upon submission to the Bulukumba Legislature, verification and consultations took place. Finally, at the meeting on 17 November, Speaker of the House, Andi Hamzah Pangki, announced the passage of the regulation into law.

The process provides important lessons for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and for local governments throughout Indonesia.

Ikhsan Amier of the Bulukumba Legal Bureau stated that, 'The drafting of future regulations needs to follow a process such as this because it was truly participative. Our greatest hopes are that all legal processes for creating regulatory instruments can follow this model and, although the process may take a long time, we can confidently take a deep responsibility and sense of pride for what we have created together'.

The Head of the Bulukumba Forestry Agency, Ms Andi Misbawati Wawo, expressed her deep appreciation and hope from the experience of leading the drafting process: 'I hope that this regulation that we have

now crafted into existence can further support and strengthen the rights of the Kajang community. We feel a great sense of pride over the fact that Bulukumba is now one of the first areas in Indonesia to design a local regulation of such significance and, furthermore, to set a precedent in the name of empowering customary communities. Thank you so much to all those who helped to support the realization of this regulation'.

More information about the Kajang

- <http://www.mongabay.co.id/2014/07/31/jalan-panjang-perda-masyarakat-adat-kajang/>
- <http://balanginstitut.org/2015/11/penetapan-perda-p3mha-ammatoa-kajang/>

Agroforestry farmers' field schools spread the word effectively

By: Enggar Paramita and Amy Lumban Gaol



Expert farmers showing fellow farmers how to do vegetative propagation. (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre)

After being implemented for two years in South and Southeast Sulawesi provinces in Indonesia, a series of agroforestry farmers' field schools have successfully identified 35 expert farmers, most of whom have been acting as independent advisors in their communities. Lessons learned from the schools were presented at Inspirasi Bakti, a collaborative sharing session for

development partners held on 21 August 2015 in Makassar, South Sulawesi.

The schools, initiated by the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi) project, have been developed as a way to improve farmers' knowledge of agroforestry techniques suitable for the



Ms Rita Pasha, head of Food Security and Extension Implementation Agency of Bantaeng, shares her thoughts during the event. (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre/Amy Lumban Gaol)

varying biophysical and socioeconomic conditions in Sulawesi. The project, which is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada and the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, commenced in 2011 and immediately began looking for an innovative advisory approach that could not only improve knowledge and disseminate information but also produce expert farmers who could help to spread the information.

Experience has proven farmers' field schools are an effective method for this. Furthermore, a communication and extension baseline survey conducted by AgFor Sulawesi of around 150 male and female farmers in several villages in South Sulawesi, in 2012, found that 60% of the respondents preferred to have a combination of face-to-face and practical sessions to receive new information. Having such information at hand, the project decided to roll out the schools in 2013.

The farmers' field school concept was not new in Indonesia: it was introduced in the '80s by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and implemented originally to improve knowledge on pest and disease management, specifically for paddy-rice farmers. Since then, the concept has been developed and widely adopted.

The schools targeted farmers in 27 villages in Bantaeng, Bulukumba, Konawe and Kolaka Timur districts in Sulawesi.

'To identify the topics to be included in the curricula, we held discussions with community members', explained Ms Endri Martini, AgFor Sulawesi Extension Specialist, to the 60 attendees who packed the venue for Inspirasi Bakti. 'On top of that, we asked them about the species they prioritised in their area'.

The discussions suggested five commodities—cocoa, coffee, clove, pepper and durian—as topics for the

schools, which were incorporated into a three-step scheme devised by Ms Martini. The first step, on knowledge strengthening, is conducted by inviting experts from national institutions to share information with farmers, which is then followed by farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer. The second step focuses on cross-visits, so farmers can learn from other farmers' successful gardens. The third step emphasizes the development of action plans and monitoring and evaluation through demonstration plots. The plot is seen as an experimental platform for farmers so they can implement the knowledge they gained from the school and observe development closely.

Ms Israk, an expert farmer turned independent extension agent, expressed her enthusiasm at being involved in a school.

'Previously, I only planted corn, just like everyone else in Kayu Loe Village, but then I joined an agroforestry farmers' field school and learned about other commodities, garden management, pruning and making organic fertilizer. I started to plant coffee, clove and cocoa in my garden. I even have developed a small nursery in my yard', she said. Ms Israk has been helping the project to disseminate agroforestry information in neighbouring villages.

Three other expert farmers from Campaga Village, Bantaeng, who previously joined a school, are now assisting farmers in the recent addition to the project's area: Gorontalo Province.

Ms Rita Pasha, the head of the Food Security and Extension Implementation Agency of Bantaeng appreciated the schools and the capacity building they performed. She also valued the expert farmers who had helped spread agricultural information to fellow farmers.

Within one year of implementation (April 2013–March 2014), the schools had reached 1733 individuals.

Since November 2013, around 100 demonstration plots have been established and regularly monitored in South and Southeast Sulawesi provinces.

Evaluation by the project noted that the schools had benefited farmers by improving garden productivity through enhancement of farmers' capacity and analytical skills. The schools also successfully developed communication links between farmers and experts. Additionally, the cross-visits had improved the adoption rate of agroforestry innovations.

However, Ms Martini said that since the schools mostly dealt with perennial tree crops, the schools should operate for minimum of one year, which is longer than the usual farmers' field school that only

takes three months. The longer period implies bigger costs. As an example, in the agroforestry farmers' field schools the total budget per person was US\$17 and with 1733 individuals involved the total was US\$30,000. Accordingly, Ms Martini noted that the schools were flexible and could be run to fit the budget and resources available.

In order to ensure sustainability for expert farmers after the project ended, Ms Martini hoped that the government would be able to improve the rewards scheme for independent extension agents, especially considering that there is a shortage of extension agents who specialize in agroforestry.

When former farmers become extensionists: experience from Gorontalo

Farmers who champion new agroforestry technologies are supported to spread the word to their peers throughout their area.

By: Enggar Paramita



Sahabuddin, Paharuddin, Hamsir, farmers from, Bantaeng who are now working as Farmer Specialist in Gorontalo. (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre/ Enggar Paramita)

'Champion farmer', 'Farmer specialist', 'Expert farmer'... call them what you like but their role is essential in spreading new technologies promoted by the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor) project. Not only do these farmers become the main actors for the project in the field but also their

knowledge and excellent communication skills help to ease the transfer of knowledge to other farmers.

In order to support Gorontalo Province, the new addition to the project's working area, expert farmers from Bantaeng District in South Sulawesi Province

were recruited to help the AgFor team and their fellow farmers.

The three farmers—Mr Sahabuddin, Mr Hamsir and Mr Paharuddin—were already familiar to the AgFor project team through their active participation in the Campaga 1 farmers' group, one of the groups assisted by AgFor in Bantaeng. Their good performance, topped with exceptional knowledge about farming, were the reasons the project hired them and flew them to Gorontalo to assist other farmers.

Sometime ago I had the chance to discuss with them their experience of working in a 'foreign' land.

Enggar (E): How are you feeling about working with AgFor in Gorontalo? And what you have been doing?

Sahabuddin (S): I am so thankful for the chance. I am so happy! When I joined Campaga farmers' group, I never thought that I would have the chance to go to Gorontalo. In my whole life, the farthest I've been is to Makassar but now, thanks to AgFor, I am here. It's such a blessing.

When I first arrived, I helped to survey potential project areas as well as to explain the project to the residents. After that, I was given the responsibility to assist farmers' groups and help them to build nurseries.

Hamsir (H): Sometimes I still miss home but, same as 'Buddin, I feel very happy. Besides, I also feel challenged because when we were in Bantaeng we basically only followed the activities provided but here, we're the ones who're doing it, thus, we hold the responsibility. So far, I've been assisting the farmers' groups and I helped with the focus-group discussion about prioritized species, too. I also have been involved in developing the groups' schedules, identifying the types of species that the farmers would grow, and building shading and nursery structures.

Paharuddin (P): I am the newest addition to the team. I've only been here since early 2015, while Hamsir and 'Buddin have been here since late 2014. Honestly, when I first arrived, I had mixed feelings. I was happy but also nervous. Now, I'm excited that I can meet new people, collaborate with them and exchange information.

At the beginning, we handled everything together, in all villages. I assisted the farmers' groups and taught them to sow, to choose and mix the soil medium, and build nurseries. All three of us have fixed schedules when we go to the village and meet farmers.

E: How do the locals accept the project so far?

S, H, and P: In general, people welcome the project, mostly because their knowledge about garden management is still limited and they'd like to know more, therefore, they're interested in the project. We think that this welcoming attitude occurs because most of the people here speak Indonesian so we don't have any difficulty communicating with them. They understand us easily.

H: However, there are people in some areas who can only speak Gorontalo language, for instance, in Ayuhulalo, so I learn the local language in order to work with them.

E: How is Gorontalo different from Bantaeng?

H: When we're talking about the types of crops, here it's mostly dominated by corn. It's different from Bantaeng, where people are used to planting a range of different crops. Not only that, I notice that people still have limited knowledge about managing their gardens.

S: In Gorontalo, the way people manage their garden is rather simple. Also, there is a lot of vacant land, therefore, people tend to have bigger gardens than in Bantaeng. Women's involvement is high, too. One

Weeding the project's nursery. Photo: World Agroforestry Centre/Enggar Paramita



more thing, here the soil condition is different and the weather is extremely hot so we need a specific approach to handle it.

E: What are the challenges?

H: First is exactly as 'Buddin said: the weather is scorching, so we need to adjust the garden treatment. Second, the distance between the office and villages is far. Sometimes, each trip can take 3 hours. We have to strategically develop the schedule so everything works well. The third is how to shift farmers' perspectives from only planting corn to perennial trees. This is difficult, so I give them a good example, a comparison with Bantaeng, so they can understand better.

S: I often find farmers would like to get an instant result so they can get money quickly. While in AgFor, it takes time; it's a process. This is what we need to re-emphasize so they can be more patient.

P: While for me, my biggest challenge is how to keep the farmers motivated so they regularly attend our meetings. Also, how to get full support from the local government because it affects the community's involvement. For example, when a leader is present in a group meeting it makes other members excited.

E: How's the Campaga 1 group surviving after you left?

H: They're still solid. We communicate regularly to ask about the progress of our seedling supply business. Supriyadi and Jalaluddin are managing the group now.

S: Previously, clove and nutmeg seedlings were very much in demand. Buyers even came from Jeneponto. The information about our group nursery spread widely by people's recommendations. We plan to use the profit to buy farming tools that we can share, for instance, a grass cutter. Next we plan to buy a water pump.

E: What have you learned from working in Gorontalo?

H: First, we learn about responsibility and how to facilitate farmers. Now we're the ones who are doing it, which is totally different from in Bantaeng where we were more like 'the beneficiaries'. Also, I have learned to write a report detailing our activity, which I had never done before.

P: From the office we received English language training. I learned how to manage work schedules, as well.

S: For me it is how we adjust ourselves so we can communicate with the community because it's different from what we are used to. We learn to adjust and to open our mind. On top of that, sometimes the theory we've learnt in Bantaeng doesn't work here,

for instance, a specific type of crop can only live at a certain altitude but then it grows in Gorontalo, which is at a lower altitude from its ideal range, though we also need to check whether the productivity is still good. Here, I also met transmigrant farmers and, I have to admit, their spirit moved me. I've also widen my perspective and improved my knowledge from exchanging information with the community.

H: Yes, that's true. As an example, farmers here said they sprinkle salt on the soil to make it more drought-resistant. They have been practising it on their clove trees and claim it succeeds.

E: What's your plan after finishing with AgFor?

S: I'd like to go back home and improve my garden. I planted various crops but the harvest is not maximized yet, thus, I'd like to improve the productivity and its use, too. I once saw here a piece of land used for farming and also for a fishing pond and duck farming. It has opened my eyes to how you can utilize a resource as much as possible. I also would like to further develop my capacity because apparently I enjoy communicating with people.

P: I'd like to improve my garden so it can be a good example for the community. I plan to grow cocoa, durian, clove and pepper by practising the methods taught by AgFor. This can also serve as a proof for the community that AgFor's methods work. I plan to work together in the garden with the community, too.

H: Once the project ends, I'd like to go back to Bantaeng. Same as 'Buddin and Paha', I want to improve my garden by planting cocoa and durian using the agroforestry concept. I'm also interested in developing a nursery enterprise, therefore, I will gather some friends and maybe we make a legal small venture, like a CV or PT. I want to be a business man. Another plan is that I'd like to go places, to meet new people, and see new things to broaden my perspective.

Undeniably, Sahabuddin, Hamsir and Paharuddin's presence has contributed to AgFor's success in Gorontalo. Their technical skills, combined with their background as farmers, help them to bond with the community effortlessly, making implementation of the project much easier. This is highlighted by Dr James M. Roshetko, AgFor Sulawesi Senior Project Leader, who noted that Sahabuddin, Hamsir and Paharuddin made it possible for Gorontalo to achieve results as good as the other provinces but in a shorter time. He hoped that the knowledge, experience and self-confidence built from assisting farmers in Gorontalo can help them to be independent extension consultants in the future.

The benefits of a mangosteen mixed garden

By: Mahrizal, Hendra Gunawan,
Heru Tuwuh, Horas Napitupulu,
Agus, Shinta Purnama Sarie

The practice of mixed gardens or agroforestry has started to be well-accepted in Lawonua Village, Besulutu Sub-district, Southeast Sulawesi. Previously, farmers used to focus on one tree species but have begun to shift their practice to agroforestry since AgFor Sulawesi started its program in the village. Now more and more farmers are mixing tree species in their gardens.

One of the farmers who has successfully practised agroforestry is Mr Rustam. He is a member of AgFor's farmers' group in Lawonua but is originally from Bulukumba, South Sulawesi. With the knowledge and skills he has gained from AgFor, Mr Rustam has planted mangosteen, rubber and pepper in his 1.5 hectare garden. He also carefully arranged the spacing between trees so each species won't interrupt the growth of another species.

Mr Rustam said that he became interested in mangosteen after he received technical information from an agricultural extension agent in his village in South Sulawesi. When he left his village, he decided to bring along 10 seedlings, which he bred in Lawonua. Now the seedlings have grown into 30 trees.

According to Mr Rustam, a mixed garden of mangosteen, rubber and pepper tends to be easy to manage and is generally cost efficient. Mangosteen, especially, rarely is attacked by pests or disease and is able to survive even though the soil is flooded for a month. This means that mangosteen is suitable for an area that is prone to flooding. However, some treatment, such as pruning, is still required. He said that farmers used to hesitate to prune but that changed when they figured out that it could reduce the risk of



Mangosteen seller in Kendari (left), Preparing the nursery (right). (Photo: World Agroforestry Centre)

pest and disease attack. Every harvest, his mangosteen trees produce 300–500 kg of fruit. Exceptionally, in February 2015 Mr Rustam managed to harvest 600 kg from his 30 trees. The harvest was sold at IDR15,000 at the farm gate and reached up to IDR20,000 when sold in Kendari, the capital of Southeast Sulawesi. From the harvest, Mr Rustam totalled IDR6,750,000. The mangosteen market seems promising because people in Kendari like the fruit, placing it in strong demand.

What's important for farmers who establish agroforestry systems is that when, for example, mangosteen isn't producing, Mr Rustam has other yields from his rubber and pepper, which helps him to secure income throughout the year.

Seeing the potential of mangosteen, AgFor Sulawesi collaborated with independent extension agents and Mr Rustam to initiate the development of a mangosteen nursery in Lawonua. The nursery helps farmers who want to plant mangosteen to obtain high-quality seedlings. Since it was established in 2013, the nursery has produced hundreds of seedlings. One-year-old seedlings are sold at IDR10,000–15,000. Through the nursery, Mr Rustam expects that mangosteen will become even more popular in Lawonua and serve as an additional source of income for the community.

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