

Application of Analytical Hierarchy Process in Determining Sustainable Agrarian Empowerment after Kasepuhan Citorek Recognition of Customary Forest

Hanifah Nur Hidayah¹, Rina Mardiana^{*1}, dan Dian Intarini²

¹Department of Communication and Community Development Science, Faculty of Human Ecology, IPB University, Indonesia.

² Department of Technology, Policy and Society, Faculty of Behavioural, Management, and Social Science, Twente University, Netherlands

*Corresponding Author e-mail: rmardiana@apps.ipb.ac.id

Received: 06-06-2024 | Revised: 23-06-2024 | Accepted: 28-06-2024

Abstract

The recognition of customary forests also shows that Indigenous peoples are able to build rights and powers that are constitutive and empowering. This position can provide a sense of security for indigenous peoples to have access to manage and utilize the potential of natural resources in their territory. Agrarian empowerment encourages the community to utilize their potential to improve community welfare. This research was conducted in East Citorek Village, part of the Kasepuhan Citorek indigenous community. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the potential sustainable agrarian empowerment that should be carried out in East Citorek Village after the recognition of customary forests using the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) method. The research methods used are quantitative with AHP and qualitative for the process of recognition of customary forests. The results show that the recognition of customary forests opens opportunities for the community in terms of empowerment initiated by many parties. Also, analyzing the potential for agrarian empowerment reveals access reform is the most pressing need among locals. Agriculture, plantations, and fishery emerge as three sectors with high potential under current circumstances.

Keywords: agrarian empowerment, customary forest, sustainable development, Indigenous people, Kasepuhan Citorek

1. INTRODUCTION

The granting of concessions and forest area licenses by the state to groups outside the community often causes Indigenous peoples to be excluded from their territories. Constitutional Court Decision No. 35/PUU-X/2012 became a momentum for Indigenous peoples, following the exclusion of customary forests from state forests (Suparto, 2021). The separation of customary forests from the state guarantees legal certainty and provides justice to indigenous peoples regarding their forests and livelihoods.

The recognition of customary forests also shows that indigenous peoples can build rights and powers that are constitutive and empowering (Tobroni, 2013). This position can provide a sense of security for indigenous peoples to have access to manage and utilize the potential of natural resources in their territory as a unit of customary law communities (Tobroni, 2013).

This happened to the Kasepuhan Karang community, which has been designated as a customary forest since December 30, 2016, with an area of 486 ha. Recognizing the customary forest opens up opportunities for economic improvement and community empowerment without destroying existing local wisdom (Arumingtyas, 2018).

The efforts to gain legal recognition have been carried out by Kasepuhan Cibedug and Citorek since 2004 through law in the form of drafting regional regulations. The regional regulation will later become the basis for applying customary forest to the state. Kasepuhan Citorek was facilitated by the Indigenous Peoples Alliance in the 25-month process of applying for the establishment of a customary forest. The area recognized as a customary forest is 1,647 hectares and falls under the category of production forest, with the indigenous community as the primary manager. The establishment of customary forest provides assets and access to the community to benefit from customary forest and fulfill their needs. Based on research by Tarigan (2023), the establishment of customary forest status affects the welfare of the community in East Citorek Village. Welfare in the Citorek indigenous community is interpreted as a sense of security and tranquility, which is in line with the recognition of the customary forest.

The recognition of customary forests is the first step in efforts to resolve agrarian issues in Indonesia. Efforts that need to be made after the recognition of customary forests include: 1) certainty of fair access to legally recognized agrarian resources and natural resources, including for indigenous peoples who consist of various social layers; 2) certainty of increasing the productivity of legally recognized agrarian resources and natural resources so that they are able to utilize more productive agrarian resources and can improve welfare and prosperity; and 3) certainty of equity and justice of benefits that have been legally recognized and managed together (Cahyono, 2022). Therefore, agrarian empowerment needs to be carried out as a basis for fulfilling the rights that should be obtained by indigenous peoples. Agrarian empowerment must be based on the conditions, potential, and culture of indigenous people. This ensure that communities can actively participate in sustainable development (Matuankotta, 2019).

In the context of the Kasepuhan Citorek as indigenous people, the Kasepuhan area has a variety of potentials that can be developed. Analysis of local potential is important to be used in development design that is adjusted to natural resources, behavior, and community culture in order to improve welfare (Endah, 2020). In addition, it is important to be able to prioritize

sustainable development by integrating the concepts of justice, environment and economy. In particular, the effects are on the economic dimension, environmental resource management, and socio-cultural development (Karlina et al., 2016). Collaboration can be a start in creating holistic solution sustainable development, balancing the needs of society with sustainable economic growth and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the potential sustainable agrarian empowerment that should be carried out in East Citorek Village after the recognition of customary forest using the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) method.

2. METHODS

Research Method

This research was conducted in East Citorek Village, Kasepuhan Citorek, Cibeber District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province. The location was selected purposively because Kasepuhan Citorek is one of the locations that received recognition of customary forest status in 2021 (Tarigan, 2023). The village chosen was East Citorek Village because it received assistance from agrarian empowerment programs from several institutions, such as The Regional Agriculture Department also The Regional Culture and Tourism Department.

This research uses a quantitative approach supported by a qualitative approach. The purpose of using a quantitative approach is to analyze the potential for agrarian empowerment using the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) method. Qualitative research methods were used to support quantitative research by conducting in-depth interviews and observations. The purpose of this qualitative approach is to identify conflicts that have occurred and the process of recognition customary forests in Kasepuhan Citorek.

Research Design

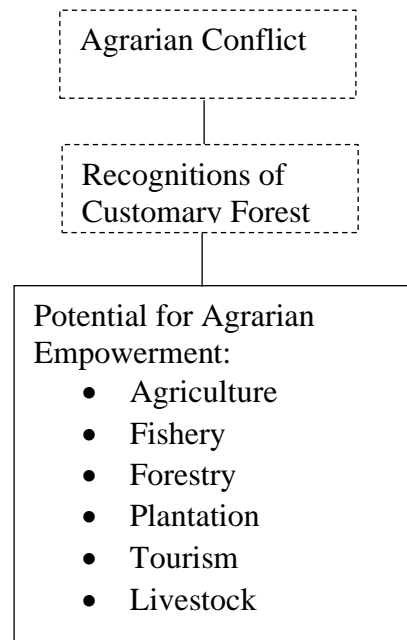
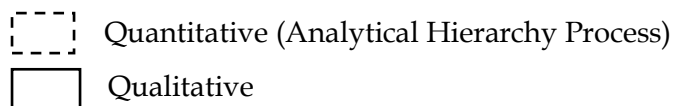


Figure 1. Research Frame Work



Data Collection Technique

The population in this research were stakeholders involved in the development and decision-making process in East Citorek Village. The selection of respondents was conducted through a purposive sampling method based on predetermined categories. Respondent categories consisted of village government, local government, customary institutions, community leaders, and community groups. The division of respondents was done by considering the complexity and variety of actors in the decision-making process at various levels and types of institutions. The process of selecting respondents was done by first understanding the structure and dynamics of the institutions involved so as to map the key individuals whose process was assisted by informants. Then, the determination of informants is done deliberately in the field. The informants who will be involved in this research come from stakeholders who are still involved in the process of empowering indigenous peoples in East Citorek Village.

Data Analysis Technique

This research consists of quantitative data and qualitative data. Quantitative data is processed using the Microsoft Excel 2016 application in analyzing the Analytical Hierarchy Process

(AHP) method to determine the potential for agrarian empowerment. AHP is an approach used to break down complex or complicated problems in an unstructured context into smaller components. Then for qualitative data, it is analyzed through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and verification. Data reduction was carried out by selecting and simplifying data from in-depth interviews, field notes, observations, and document studies.

3. RESULTS

Agrarian Conflict

At the beginning, the Halimun Ecosystem Area was managed by 5 (five) different parties or groups, namely the Kasepuhan as indigenous people, the National Park, state forest public company, mining concessionaires and holders of the Cultivation Rights Unit. Each party has a different management of natural resources and territory. This has led to conflict due to overlapping powers (Susilaningtias, 2007). Conflicts between state forest public company and Kasepuhan Citorek have occurred since the 1980s. The conflict took the form of reforestation planting on the community's cultivated land and "tribute" collection by the government, which caused both verbal and physical conflict (Tarigan, 2023).

"From 2003, when there was a decree on the expansion of the National Park, there started to be resistance from the community. Because a lot of community land that has been cultivated for many generations is included in the National Park area." (JJG, community leaders)

According to informants, conflict continued between the National Park and the Kasepuhan community after the issuance of Minister of Forestry Decree No. 175/Kpts-II/2003 on the declaration of Halimun Salak National Park from 40,000 ha to 113,357 ha. The ongoing conflict between Kasepuhan Citorek and state forest public company subsided, but led to conflict with the National Park. This led to conflict when the community was deemed to have encroached on the forest illegally. The National Park has a land ownership claim based on a Decree of the Minister of Forestry, while the Kasepuhan community holds fast to the customary laws passed down from generation to generation.

Conflicts between indigenous people have prompted advocacy efforts by various organizations. Advocacy was carried out to encourage recognition of the identity of Kasepuhan as indigenous people, including recognition of the value of their traditions and customary territories. The advocacy process was carried out from 2004 until it finally led to

decisions in favor of indigenous peoples, such as the Lebak Regent Decree No.430/Kep.298/Disdikbud/2013 on the Recognition of the Existence of Indigenous Peoples in the Banten Kidul Customary Unit in Lebak Regency which includes 17 Kasepuhan and the Lebak Regency Regional Regulation No.8/2015 on the Recognition, Protection and Empowerment of Kasepuhan.

Recognition of Customary Forest

Constitutional Court Decision No. 35/PUU-X/2012 paved the way for indigenous peoples to obtain stipulations for their customary forests. The Constitutional Court decision confirms that customary forests are no longer part of state forests. The Ministry of Forestry responded by making various efforts to accelerate the achievement of the target of determining the status of customary forests with several policies such as ministerial regulation by ministry of forestry number P.32/Menlhk-Setjen/2015 concerning customary forests. Kasepuhan Citorek, which at that time had already been recognized through local regulations and already had a map, was encouraged to apply for customary forest recognition in 2016. Kasepuhan Citorek only started to apply for customary forest recognition in 2019, facilitated by Indigenous Peoples Alliance.

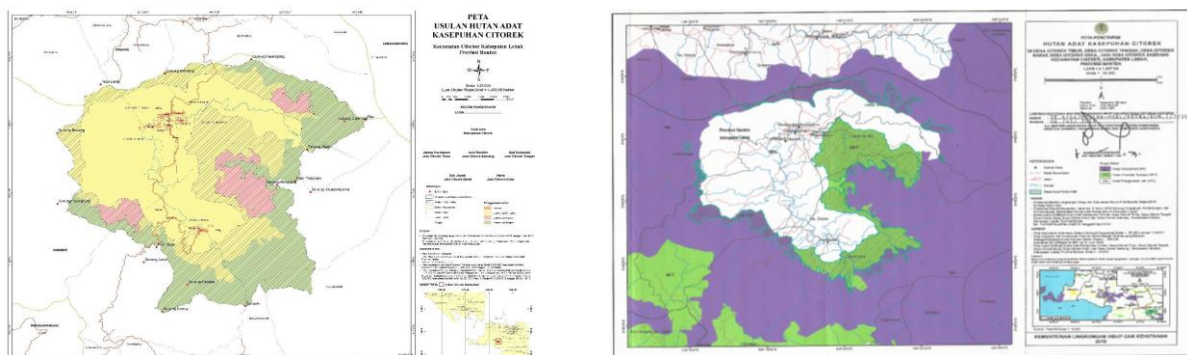


Figure 2. Map of customary forest proposal by the community (left) and map determined by the government (right)

Customary forests determined by the Ministry of Forestry only cover $\pm 1,647$ ha, with details located in Conservation Forest areas covering ± 594 ha and in Limited Production Forest areas covering $\pm 1,053$ ha. Most of the recognized areas are Limited Production Forest areas. However, there is no mention of the reason why not all proposed areas are recognized as customary forests. The flow of the customary forest determination process can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. The process of recognition of customary forest

Timeline	Customary Forest Recognition Process
2003	Initial request to the national government (i.e. Ministry of Forestry) to exclude their customary territory from the Halimun Salak National Park by the indigenous people supported by the Lebak District Government.
2004	First negotiation process by Kasepuhan Citorek and Kasepuhan Cibedug with the National Park regarding the forest area.
2005-2006	Kasepuhan Citorek and Cibedug decide to take legal options in the form of Regional Regulations to fight for their rights.
2005	Participatory Mapping of Kasepuhan Citorek facilitated by RMI
2013	Regent of Lebak issued Decree 430/Kep.298/Disdikbud/2013 on the Recognition of the Existence of Indigenous Peoples in Banten Kidul Customary Area
2015	Issuance of Lebak District Regulation 8/2015 on the Recognition, Protection and Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples which includes Kasepuhan Citorek
2019	Submission of application for the recognition of Kasepuhan Citorek customary forest (January) Verification and validation of application data for Kasepuhan Citorek customary forest (April-May) Declaration as customary forest of Kasepuhan Citorek (July)
2021	Delivery of decree on the recognition of Kasepuhan Citorek customary forest by the president in Jakarta (January)

If accumulated from the application for recognition of indigenous peoples' rights through regional regulations to the submission of a decree directly by the Ministry of Forestry, the Kasepuhan Citorek's struggle to obtain recognition and recognition of customary forest and their rights as indigenous peoples lasted 18 years, from 2003-2021.

Potential for Agrarian Empowerment

The fulfillment of indigenous peoples' rights is the basis for them to carry out sustainable empowerment (Duran-Diaz et al., 2020). Therefore, recognition of the existence, institutions, and forest areas is the basis before agrarian empowerment is carried out to improve the welfare of indigenous peoples. Constitutional Court Decision No. 35/PUU-X/2012 encourages indigenous peoples to have power and increase the expansion of assets and capacity for indigenous peoples in utilizing customary forests. Based on this, an analysis of the potential for agrarian empowerment using analytical hierarchy process (AHP) was carried

out with the aim of determining the direction of empowerment based on the real conditions of the Kasepuhan Citorek community, especially East Citorek Village.

Table 2. Priority values and main criteria parameters in AHP

	Priority	<i>Eigen Vector</i> (EV)	Consistency Ratio
Community Participation	0,29	29%	1,49%
<i>Access Reform</i>	0,34	34%	
Economic Improvement	0,22	22%	
Capacity building	0,16	16%	

The results show that access reform has the highest EV, followed by the criteria of community participation, economic improvement, and finally capacity building. The comparison between criteria does not have a big difference, this also shows that these four criteria are considered important for the community in the empowerment aspect. Most respondents expect these aspects to be fulfilled in order to improve community welfare.

Based on observations and interviews, communities most need access reforms such as the provision of affordable fertilizers and fish seeds. Community participation comes second, showing the expectation that empowerment programs should target sectors that are needed by many people and reach all layers fairly. Economic improvement comes third, which is expected to boost welfare. Agriculture in East Citorek Village is subsistence, so economic improvement in other sectors is needed. Capacity building comes last because people rely on traditional knowledge, especially in the agricultural sector, and find it difficult to accept new knowledge from outside. The government is advised not to change the existing value system.

Box 1 CHALLENGES IN THE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN EAST CITOREK VILLAGE

Mr. WD is the manager of the Upland Project program initiated by the Lebak Regency Regional Agriculture Department. The program has been implemented since 2021 in Kasepuhan Citorek, covering the villages of East Citorek, Central Citorek, West Citorek, Citorek Sabrang, and South Citorek. The form of the program provided is access reform, community organizing, and capacity building. During the implementation of the Upland Project, the most difficult challenge faced by the Regional Agriculture Department was in terms of community participation in capacity building activities or training provided.

Agriculture Department has held various trainings inviting each representative of the farmer groups in East Citorek Village. The hope is that each member can take turns attending the training, but often the same people attend the activities. In addition, after providing training, the knowledge provided is not necessarily applied properly by the community. For example, in planting mangosteen seedlings, Mr. WD sees that there are still many people who plant arbitrarily and not in accordance with the rules that have been explained. The solution currently carried out by Regional Agriculture Department is to come directly to Kasepuhan Citorek to provide training so as to ensure that more people participate. Based on this, it can be related to the fact that more people choose capacity building in the last place because the desire to develop themselves in other sectors is still low.

The next AHP analysis was carried out with the aim of looking at potential sectors based on the main criteria in East Citorek Village. The sector options that respondents can choose include agriculture, fishery, forestry, plantations, tourism and livestock.

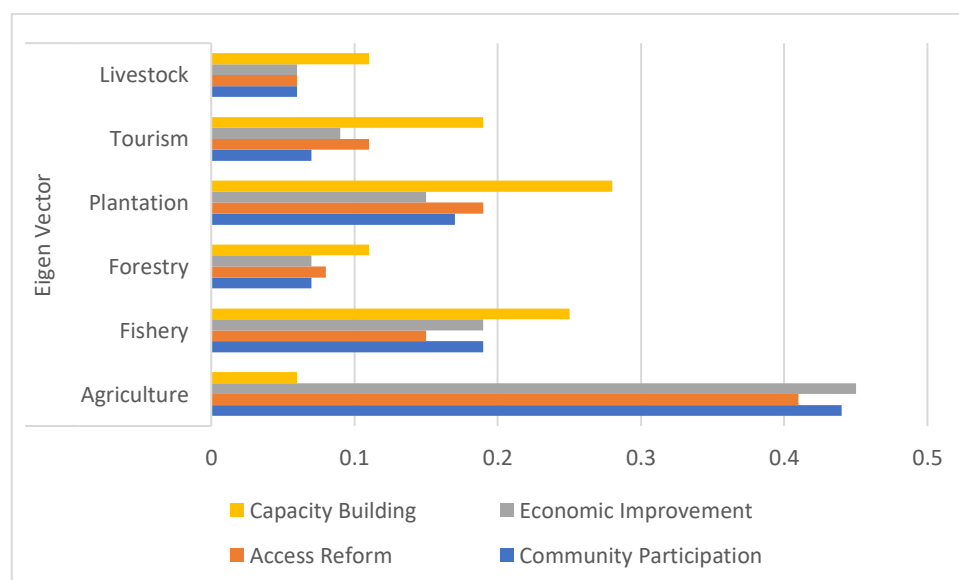


Figure 3. Priority values and sector criteria parameters in AHP

Based on the AHP results, Agriculture ranks first in the aspects of access reform, economic improvement, and community participation. This is based on the strong customary values associated with the agricultural sector. Although agriculture tends to be subsistent or only for personal needs, in the aspect of economic improvement, agriculture remains the top priority because the community considers the value of rice commodities more important than anything else. Meanwhile, plantations and fishery are in the second and third place because they are both alternative jobs for the people of East Citorek Village, so they consider it important to develop these two sectors. Although tourism has development potential, community awareness of this sector is still lacking. Forestry is difficult to develop because the community often avoids taking forest resources because it is in the National Park area, although it is now part of the customary forest. The livestock aspect often comes last due to the area being in the highlands and the presence of pests such as coyotes. The three highest sectors such as agriculture, fishery, and plantations can be optimally developed through empowerment programs that provide production inputs fairly and equitably.

Agrarian Empowerment Program After Recognition of Customary Forest

Support for agrarian-based economic empowerment in the utilization of customary forests by various state institutions, ranging from village governments, district governments, to universities, has increased after the recognition of customary forests. This proves that the establishment of customary forests is the beginning of the return and fulfillment of the rights of indigenous peoples who have not been recognized by the state. The empowerment that has been carried out shows how indigenous peoples can optimally utilize the natural resources they have based on their culture without damaging the environment. This condition make indigenous people allows to manage resources sustainably, with the community serving as the primary actors (Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, 2018).

The first program was "The Development of Integrated Farming System in Upland Areas" (Upland Project), which was initiated by the Regional Agriculture Department of Lebak Regency. The purpose of this activity is to increase agricultural productivity in the highlands and increase farmers' income. This Upland activity is designed so that at the farm level productivity increases without damaging the environment. This program not only focuses on the development of mangosteen commodities, but also on the development of food crops in yards by planting vegetable commodities and biogas fertilizer. The goal of the Upland Project

in Kasepuhan Citorek is to ensure that the mangosteen commodity can be maintained and bear fruit, as well as the development of food crops in yards.

The recipients of mangosteen seedlings in East Citorek Village are five farmer groups with a total of 216 members. When compared to the beneficiaries in Kasepuhan Citorek, Central Citorek Village has the most beneficiaries with 291 members. Data from the Regional Agriculture Department shows that beneficiaries in Kasepuhan Citorek are still dominated by men with a percentage reaching 62.1% (743 people), while women reach 37.9% (454 people). Unlike the mangosteen seedling program, the development of food crops in yards program has not been implemented on a massive scale. In 2023, only two farmer groups in East Citorek Village received this program assistance with a total of 20 beneficiaries.

Table 3. beneficiaries recipients of Upland Project

Farmers Group	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries			Total
	Upland Members	Men	Women	Youth	
Gunung Kendeng	43	209	112	76	440
Karya Makmur	49	223	143	77	492
Total	178	432	255	153	1.018

Infrastructure development in the Upland Project focuses on four things, namely the construction of agriculture access roads, reservoirs, terraces, and warehouses as a place to store crops and corporate management. The construction of this agriculture access roads is one of the programs that has an impact on the community as a whole, both program beneficiaries and non-program beneficiaries. In fact, according to table, indirect beneficiaries have a higher number because the agriculture access roads passes through their land. This is because people who have harvested do not have to walk anymore, but can be reached using a motor vehicle.

The next program is tourism development initiated by the Regional Culture and Tourism Department in the Kasepuhan Citorek area (East Citorek, Central Citorek, Sabrang Citorek, West Citorek, and South Citorek) which was developed with the concept of ecotourism development. Through the development of Citorek tourism, it is hoped that it can sustainably provide positive benefits for the village, such as economic growth, community welfare as tourism actors, increasing human resource capacity, institutional independence, and preserving nature and culture contained in the area as a characteristic and value of local wisdom that is unique to the community and becomes a positive image of Lebak Regency tourism. One of them is Kendeng Mountain which is a tourism development area.

The recognition of customary forests is very influential on tourism development. This tourism development was carried out in the customary forest area, based on this, an agreement was formed with the Regional Tourism Department to jointly develop Mount Kendeng tourism. The local government assists in infrastructure development and Kasepuhan plays a role in providing or granting land. In fact, the Kasepuhan also rejected the existence of outside investment that would allow the eviction of local communities so that the management of Mount Kendeng tourism would be carried out independently by the East Citorek Village community itself. This shows that the recognition of customary forests gives the community the authority to optimally utilize their territory in an effort to improve the welfare of the community.

"In relation to tourism, Kendeng Mountain is one of the areas included in the customary forest. The local government would not dare to develop tourism objects in the Kasepuhan Citorek if it is in the National Park Area. Incidentally, Citorek has been recognized as an customary forest." (JJG, community leader)

The tourism potential in East Citorek Village is divided into two categories, namely agro-tourism and cultural tourism. East Citorek agro-tourism is precisely located on Kendeng Mountain, which has been under construction since 2020. Mount Kendeng Tourism is designed to be a tourist spot that presents panoramic natural beauty by combining horticultural agricultural aspects, while in the cultural tourism category, East Citorek, which is the central area of Kasepuhan Citorek, is the main point of traditional celebrations, such as the *seren taun* celebration. *Seren Taun* is a grand Kasepuhan Citorek celebration held once a year as a form of gratitude to God and respect for the ancestors.

4. DISCUSSION

Agrarian Issues Between Communities and the Government

Based on mapping conducted by the Indigenous Peoples Alliance, Kasepuhan Citorek is located within core, special, rehabilitation, and wilderness zones. In these conservation areas, there is a distribution of wildlife such as the Javan eagle, leopard, and Javan gibbon. However, in terms of function, the indigenous people has its own understanding of forest functions with the terms named *leuweung tutupan* (protected area) and *leuweung titipan* (protected area but one day it will be used if needed). When compared, there are not many differences in perceptions regarding forest area functions between the government and the indigenous

people. Conservation and protected forests have functions similar to *leuweung tutupan*, while production forests are akin to *leuweung garapan* (area used for agriculture). In the *leuweung tutupan area*, the indigenous people considers this area as *sirah cai*, or headwater protection, which needs to be preserved, having a similar function to protected forests.

The designation of forest functions by the state without considering the values held by indigenous people leads to limitations on the livelihood resources of these communities. This is due to significant differences in perceptions. While the Ministry of Forestry refers to laws, classifications, and terminology, the indigenous people refers to forest functions with their own diverse aspects and customary tenure systems. For example, what is considered production forest by indigenous people might be conservation forest for the government. In Kasepuhan Citorek, some conservation forest areas overlap with *leuweung titipan*, which can be utilized after obtaining permission from the customary institution.

The government determines the function of forests designated as customary forests, whether for conservation, protection, or production, without consulting the indigenous people who have their own views on the function of customary forests based on their cultural traditions. This is one of the reasons why the area proposed by indigenous people does not align with what is designated by the Ministry of Forestry (Tillah et al., 2023).

According to the book "Lessons from the Pre- and Post-Designation of Customary Forests" (2022), the challenges in designating customary forests include: (a) internal strengths (social and political capital) within the indigenous people in their struggle; (b) the type and strength of the regime being challenged; (c) the available political opportunities; and (d) the effectiveness of responses, actions, and innovations occurring in the process. The struggle is not easy, and these four factors sufficiently represent Kasepuhan Citorek in the process of customary forest.

Recognition of Customary Forest in to Agrarian Empowerment

Based on Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2015, Article 19 states that in recognizing and protecting the rights of the Indigenous Peoples, the Regional Government shall provide empowerment through the provision of facilities, infrastructure, and funding. Following the customary forests in 2021, various empowerment efforts have been made for the Kasepuhan Citorek community. The restoration and fulfillment of rights through empowerment

programs must be designed holistically to ensure that the benefits of these programs reach the community fairly and equitably.

So far, empowerment programs in East Citorek Village have focused on agriculture and tourism. The programs carried out by the Regional Agricultural Department provide direct and indirect beneficiaries to the community, unlike tourism development, which is still in the construction phase. Equitable distribution of benefits is crucial to ensure that government programs do not target only specific groups, so the impact of the recognition of customary forest can be optimal.

The Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) results show that some ongoing empowerment programs in East Citorek Village align with the community's needs, while others require more time to provide comprehensive benefits. According to the AHP results, access reform needs are urgent due to the necessity of fertilizers and production inputs. The most potential sectors for development are agriculture, plantations, and fishery.

Current programs include the Upland Project by the Regional Agricultural Department and Tourism Development by the Regional of Culture and Tourism Department. Compared to the AHP results, the Upland Project is more aligned with the community's needs, especially in providing seeds, fertilizers, agriculture access roads, and access reforms provided by relevant parties. This is supported by the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries, helping farmers develop their businesses. Meanwhile, the tourism sector still requires a long-term effort to provide comprehensive benefits to the community. According to the AHP results, the tourism sector is still considered low potential by the community due to the lack of involvement from various parties in its development and implementation. This aligns with the AHP results indicating that community participation is crucial for the success of tourism development.

In facing these various challenges, it is important for all involved parties to continue collaborating, sharing knowledge, and committing to the shared goal of sustainable welfare for indigenous people. Proper management of customary forests will not only protect local ecosystems but also strengthen the economy and culture of the local community.

Agrarian Empowerment in Encouraging Sustainability

The agrarian empowerment carried out must be adapted to the actual conditions that exist in the community by considering ecological, socio-cultural and economic sustainability. Sustainability must ensure the occurrence of conditions of balance, resilience, and

interconnectedness that allow humans to meet their needs without exceeding the capacity of the supporting ecosystem. Therefore, the utilization of natural resources must be ensured to occur fairly, equitably, and not exploitatively (Effendi et al., 2018).

In the aspect of ecological sustainability, the East Citorek Village community has a close relationship with nature. One of them is seen in the traditional and cultural values of the Kasepuhan Citorek, which divides their customary territory into three categories, namely *leuweung tutupan*, *leuweung titipan*, and *leuweung garapan*. *Leuweung tutupan* is an area that is not allowed to be changed, because it acts as a source of water for their lives. Meanwhile, *leuweung titipan* is an area that can be changed at any time if it has been authorized by the customary institution. Based on this, the community has understood that their customary values uphold environmental sustainability so that it can be enjoyed by descendants in the future. The community also realizes that they depend on natural conditions, so environmental sustainability is the basis for their every decision.

In the aspect of socio-cultural sustainability in East Citorek Village, customary values, culture and traditions still guide their lives today and will be preserved for future generations. One form of culture that is carried out to maintain these values is through *seren taun* when all descendants of Kasepuhan Citorek are required to return home and gather with the whole family. This is one of the efforts made to maintain culture and social relations between communities from generation to generation.

The community expects to improve the welfare of their lives through utilizing local potential. Local potential drives economic development so that local resources, skills and innovation become aspects to achieve economic independence and improve living standards. The establishment of customary forests is one of the moments for the community to be able to optimize agricultural lands more freely. It can also encourage local economic diversification through untapped sectors, one of which is tourism. To realize this, training and empowerment are needed to encourage the community to be able to utilize the existing local potential.

"We are trying to move towards a prosperous society. So how do we regulate the local economy so that the money circulates within this community. The target is to empower the economy, so that the community here is sovereign in food, economy, culture, and politics" (SRY, community leader).

Program determination must be based on the community's needs as they best understand what needs to be developed. According to informants, the community understands the

desired development direction while considering ecological, socio-cultural, and economic aspects. This shows that the potential of East Citorek Village forms the basis for development sustainability. So far, empowerment has centered on agriculture and tourism, but the community hopes to develop other sectors further.

Empowerment programs are not solely economically oriented but also respect the long-held values of the community. Therefore, the aim of empowerment is to strengthen existing values, not to erase or replace them. Empowerment efforts in East Citorek Village have become more open following the recognition of customary forests. The community has the right to manage the forest according to their customary values, preserve their culture, and develop a fair and sustainable economy. The authority or power held by the community will develop East Citorek Village according to their aspirations. The involvement of indigenous people in resource management can make a significant contribution to achieving global climate goals, forest restoration, biodiversity, and sustainable development objectives (Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, 2018).

5. CONCLUSION

Recognition of customary forest not only opens up numerous opportunities for empowering indigenous people but also grants them authority to manage their natural resources. Given these benefits, expediting the recognition of customary forests across Indonesia is crucial, accompanied by empowerment programs to fulfill indigenous rights. It is essential to ensure that the distribution of benefits from agrarian empowerment programs is fair and equitable, reaching all segments of society rather than targeting specific groups. These programs should be tailored to the needs and conditions of each community to ensure direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Sustainable agrarian empowerment based on the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) with a foundation on local community potentials is a holistic and participatory approach. By involving local communities and leveraging local potentials, the resulting strategies are not only relevant and effective but also capable of enhancing community independence and welfare. AHP aids in identifying priorities and making informed decisions, thereby supporting the achievement of long-term agrarian sustainability goals. This research findings highlight that access reform is the most pressing need among locals. Agriculture, plantations, and fishery emerge as three sectors with high potential under current circumstances. These sectors can be maximized through equitable distribution of production inputs via

empowerment programs. Such initiatives are poised to significantly enhance the community's economic well-being.

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