

## Strategies of Community Empowerment to Manage Protection Forest Sustainably

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### Abstract

*The Indonesian Government has empowered communities that are living adjacent to forests, but at the same time, protection forests are highly encroached by local community. In response, our study aims at formulating strategies of community empowerment in protection forest management. Data collection through participatory observation, questionnaire surveys, interviews, and focused group discussions were conducted in the surrounding communities of protection forest areas in Sumbawa District, Indonesia. A combination of descriptive, participatory, and explorative approaches were used for data analysis. The knowledge of local communities on protection forest conservation was found to be on an average level, while their attitudes towards conservation was assessed as being on a higher level. Community empowerment programs implemented by the government were shown to have no significant effect on knowledge improvement, but they were more effective in changing the community's attitudes regarding protection forest management. Local communities were shown to be willing to conduct conservation activities as well as looking for cash income. Therefore, our study suggested that community empowerment programs should link forest conservation with income opportunities for local people, such as implementing conservation agriculture (e.g. agroforestry), partnerships in the production and sale of non-timber forest products, and conducting clearly reward and punishment for communities.*

*Keywords: community empowerment, protection forests, conservation, knowledge, attitude*

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### Introduction

The Indonesian Government divides types of forests based on function; these are production forest, protection forest, and conservation forest. The main function of production forest is to produce timber, conservation forest is to conserve wildlife and biodiversity, and protection forest is to protect hydrological function and encourage water and soil conservation (The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 41 Year 1999 concerning Forestry). Protection forest is designated based on soil vulnerability to run-off and erosion through considering the characters of soil types, slope, elevation, and rainfall. Protection forests require land use systems which can reduce run-off and erosion until the secure rate to achieve the main function is reached. However, forest encroachment and deforestation occur in protection forest area (FWI 2014). An important reason of forest encroachment is the high dependency of local community on forests. They are often among the poorest communities in Indonesia (Wollenberg *et al.* 2004 cited by Mutaqin 2014). Their livelihoods depend on the forest resources, and their access to land is limited. In line to people growth development, the needs on food and energy have increased as well as the need on land resources which can threat forest land (Brockhaus *et al.* 2012).

The biophysical characteristics of protection forest and their ecological functions are vulnerable to land use changes, such as deforestation, which may decrease in a loss of watershed functions, increase run-off, erosion, sedimentation, and floods. The land use change can be caused by natural and/or human activities. Communities living within the vicinity of the protection forest were reputed as challenging situation to the conservation efforts (Ostrom 1999), that they were also reputed as causing a loss of watershed functions by government agencies (Verbist *et al.* 2005).

In general, human activities conducted in protection forest can have positive or negative effects for protection forest conservation. Communities can contribute to protection forest conservation through their indigenous knowledge in enforcing customary law, but can also treat the existing forest due to over exploitation (Sukardi *et al.* 2008). Therefore, the interactions between communities and their surrounding forests need to be optimized to achieve social, economic, and ecological benefits. Unfortunately, most of the protection forest areas in Indonesia have not been well-managed (Mutaqin 2014). Moreover, forest policy related to protection forest has had many problems such as overlapping and conflicting forest policies, unclear terminologies, and

disharmony of forest policies (Ginoga *et al.* 2005; Dunggio 2012; Ekawati *et al.* 2012).

In response to deforestation and forest degradation, the Government Regulation Number 6/2007 juncto Number 3/2008 regarding Forest Arrangement and Formulation of Forest Management Plan as well as Forest Exploitation aims at dividing the entire forest areas into Forest Management Units (FMUs) in order to govern and maintain them in a sustainable way. As new institutions, FMUs face many challenges. Sumbawa District, for instance, has three FMUs, which experience similar problems, such as illegal logging and forest encroachment for agriculture. Among the three FMUs is the FMU of Batulanteh, which was established in 2011.

There is an urgent need to establish new approaches of sustainable forest management, which includes more community participation (Darusman *et al.* 2013). Forest communities are supposed to be key stakeholders in protection forest management because their livelihoods depend on the protection forest (Ekawati 2012). However, participatory approaches in rural development have often resulted in manipulating local populations and imposing outside agendas rather than local empowerment (Edmunds & Wollenberg 2003). Agencies persists with top-down approaches in community development projects (Evans *et al.* 2010). The goals and outcomes of activities are often determined by external stakeholders such as policymakers, scientists, and donors, while local people's points of views are often neglected (Schusser 2013) and local realities disregarded (Hoch *et al.* 2009). Most forest planning has been designed based on the needs and concerns of governments and companies without carefully considering and consulting the needs of local communities. The local communities did not have power to influence the process of establishing, executing and monitoring the plans. Therefore, the involvement of local communities in the forest management was historically very low (Purnomo 2005).

Communities are important actors in natural resources management (Agrawal 2003) and can be the most effective stewards in forest management when they are given an opportunity in decision making (Colfer 2005). Participation of local community has been shown to be a major factor in the success or failure of natural resource protection (Du Toit 2002). Therefore, community empowerment is needed for improving community participation. Community empowerment can also minimize social conflicts and maximize equity of benefit sharing (Ostrom *et al.* 1999).

The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 41 Year 1999 concerning Forestry instructs that forest resources are managed and used for the greatest prosperity of the people while conserving the environment. Furthermore, in the Government Regulation Number 6/2007, in the Eleventh Part, the local community empowerment is defined. As for instance in the Article 83, which regulates that the local community empowerment is (1) in order to obtain benefits of forest resources optimally and fairly, and (2) an obligation, which has to be promoted by the government, province, and municipal in which the head of the FMUs have the responsibility for its implementation. In response to this mandate, FMUs have already conducted community

empowerment, including in the FMU of Batulanteh. In fact, FMU of Batulanteh has already put many efforts to reduce forest encroachment, yet encroachment is still occurs.

Ideally, community empowerment should be designed in a way that is compatible with the need, ability, desire, and behavior of the community people. That is why understanding local community knowledge and attitudes on protection forest conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources is crucial (Triguero-Mas *et al.* 2010). The studies of local community attitudes have also contributed to a better understanding of local people needs and aspirations for conservation (Infield & Namara 2001). Therefore, this study aims to develop community empowerment strategies using bottom-up approaches that consider local community knowledge, attitudes, needs, wishes, and behaviors. Our study also wants accommodate community forestry initiatives in a way that promote local empowerment and avoid dysfunction as a result of using top-down approaches. In specific, our study wants to (1) analyze the knowledge and attitude of local community on protection forest conservation, (2) evaluate FMU's community empowerment programs, and (3) formulate the strategies of community empowerment program.

## Methods

**Study site** The study was undertaken in the surrounding protection forest area of Sumbawa District, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, which is managed by the FMU of Batulanteh. The area includes 25 villages distributed in eight sub-districts. Each village consists of 3–4 sub-villages. The population is composed by indigenous people of Sumbawa, and some migrants from Lombok, Bali, Bima, and Java. The total population is 50,333 people (male: 24,605 people; female: 25,728 people) of 1,305 households and the main occupations are farmers, fishermen, and breeders (Pusrenbang 2016). Forestry Multi-Stakeholders Team (*Tim Multistakeholder Kehutanan*) stated that about 80% of local community surrounding Sumbawa forest area is classified as a poor people (Supardi *et al.* 2006). The dependency of local community on protection forest was relatively high that contributed 33% for cash income and supported food security (Setiajiati *et al.* 2017).

Seven sub-villages named Batudulang, Punik, Pusu, Semabung, Sempe Atas, Sempe Bawah, and Brangrea Luar were in the focus of our study. The sites were selected by purposive sampling, as representative villages which have special case. These sub-villages had high interaction between community and forest area based on rapid appraisal and preliminary survey. Table 1 shows the reasons of sub-village selection and Figure 1 shows the location of each sub-village.

**Data collection and analysis** A mixed method approach was used for data collection. Data and information were gathered through a range of in-depth qualitative explorations followed by incorporating the results into a questionnaire. The first phase of data collection was conducted between August and November 2015 and consisted of preliminary surveys, community and forest observations, semi-structured interviews, and focused group discussion (FGD). The second

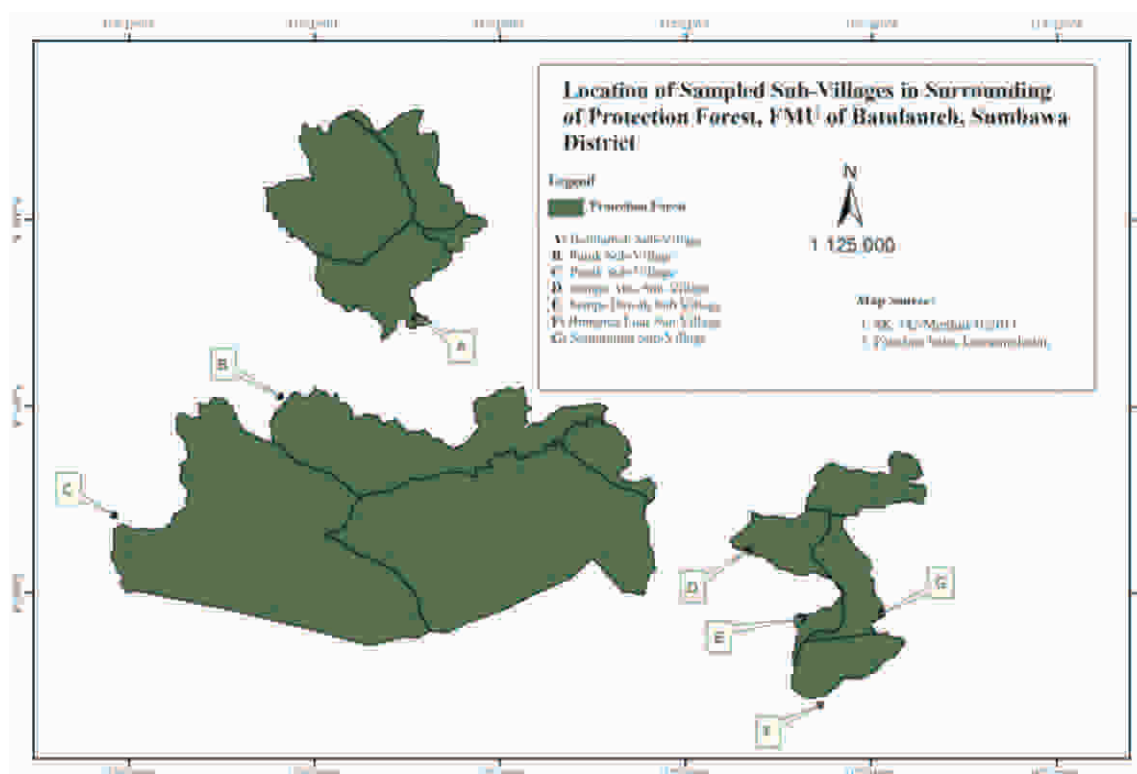


Figure 1 The distribution of study sites.

Table 1 Sub-villages communities and their relationships with protection forests

Sub-village	Community and protection forest relationship
Batudulang	High dependency on forests regarding wild honey harvesting
Punik	Community have large coffee plantations in FMU's forest areas, especially in protection forests
Pusu	Representative of other sub -villages which have not received community empowerment programs from the FMU and had no special issues
Sempe Atas	Community collected <i>Usnea barbata</i> by cutting the trees in protection forest and neglected the trees, just took <i>U. barbata</i> . <i>U. barbata</i> is a genus from Parmeliaceae family for medicine, cosmetics, etc. Cutting the trees in protection forests is totally prohibited
Sempe Bawah	Community collected <i>U. barbata</i> by cutting the trees in protection forest and neglected the trees, just took <i>U. barbata</i> . Cutting the trees in protection forests is totally prohibited
Brangrea Luar	Representative of other sub-villages which have not received community empowerment programs from the FMU and had no special issues
Semamung	This sub-village which had high rate in illegal logging cases for business based on information of FMU staffs

phase was a questionnaire survey conducted from January to November 2016. Afterwards, the data was analyzed by using descriptive analysis in quantitative and qualitative ways. In the questionnaire survey, the questions were adopted from Budiono (2009) and adapted to the local conditions to explore the knowledge and attitudes of local community on protection forest conservation. The questions were related to the skills and knowledge about forest conservation and management, including forest functions, tree nursery management, forest maintenance, forest harvesting, forest business, forest policy, and community participation. The

questions regarding attitudes were related to local community views on social interaction, forest business and utilization, and activities in the forests. The questionnaires were allotted for 193 households in seven sub-villages. The family head was selected as household representative because they often visit forest area to meet family subsistence needs. All household representatives were male, farmers, and indigenous to East Nusa Tenggara Province, mostly educated at low level of formal education and in productive ages (Figure 2).

The semi-structured interviews were conducted to obtain

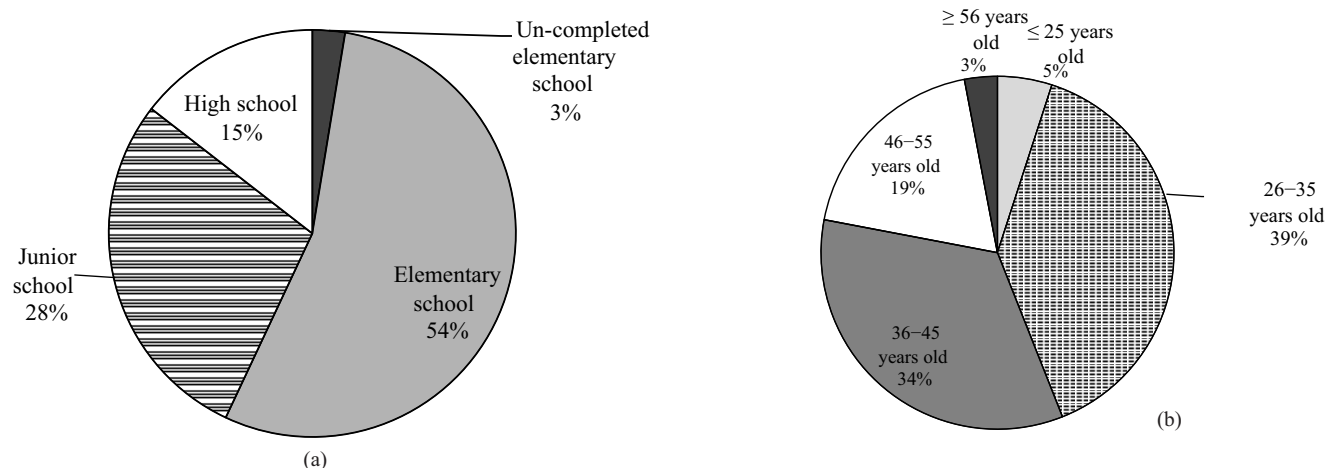


Figure 2 Profile of respondents: age (a), and education (b).

data of 45 households with high interests and interactions with forests, the ability to express their perceptions and opinions and presumable knowledge about community empowerment based on observation in questionnaire survey. Open-ended interviews with 45 households were designed to get information related to community perception and participation on forest protection, and ideas on how to empower communities effectively.

FGDs were held two times. The first FGD was held in September 2015 and attended by 37 participants, consisting of FMU staffs, government agencies, business/ private actors, and local community people. The main topic was about the general problems in the FMU of Batulanteh and its solutions in order to gain in-depth experiential accounts of different actor's perceptions and concerns in FMU of Batulanteh governance. The second FGD was conducted in October 2015 with 10 community people in Batulanteh Village. The main goal was to gain their views, opinions, and ideas related to protection forest conservation.

A combination of descriptive-participative-explorative approaches were used for data analysis. A Likert scale was used to analyze the knowledge and attitude for forest protection by questionnaire surveys which categorized scores into five classes. The questionnaire related to knowledge on protection forest conservation consisted of 50 questions with multiple answer choice. The households needed to answer correctly based on general knowledge of environment management. The amount of true answers showed community competency of knowledge on protection forest conservation, which was consisted five categories: excellent (40–50), good (30–39), average (20–29), below average (10–19), and bad (0–9). Category of excellent was meant that community has already understood about theory, concept, techniques, and practice of protection forest conservation, especially about forest functions, tree nursery management, forest maintenance, forest harvesting, forest business, forest policy, and community participation. So, category of good, average, below average, and bad was meant that understanding of theory, concept, techniques, and practice of protection forest conservation was not completed yet. The questionnaire related to attitudes consisted of 49 statements with two response choices to state agreement and

disagreement: True answers of attitude questions were based on ideally perception of theoretical concepts and it was calculated to find category each household: excellent (40–49), good (30–39), average (20–29), below average (10–19), and bad (0–9). Excellent attitudes was meant that community people had good mindset related to forest conservation (especially about views on social interaction, forest business and utilization, and activities in the forests), as well as keeping harmonization among natural, social, and economic interest. So, category of good, average, below average, and bad in attitudes was meant that their mindset need to be improved due to something wrong of perception on forest conservation. Community empowerment strategies were formulated by a synthesis among the results of field observation, questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews, open-ended interviews, and FGDs in descriptive analysis.

## Results and Discussion

**Knowledge and attitudes of local community on protection forest conservation** Overall, the knowledge of respondents on protection forest conservation was in average level based on the result of questionnaire survey (Table 2). The knowledge towards protection forest conservation is related to forest function, nursery and planting skill, forest maintenance, forest business, forest policy, and community participation which was described as followed:

### 1 Forest function

Basic ecological knowledge of communities was limited. Communities could not understand about relationship of forest, water, soil or hydrological system, although they noticed that the forest provides intangible environmental services, such as water supply and controlling the climate. However, community people always mentioned tangible benefits of forests (e.g. wild honey, wood, food) as priority of forest function rather than intangible benefit because they needed tangible things for supporting economic and cash income.

### 2 Nursery and planting skill

Community members have already understood how to make seedling, nursery, and soil fertilizing. However,

Table 2 Knowledge and attitudes of forest community on protection forest conservation

Sub-village	Knowledge			Attitude		
	Total of respondents	Average of score	Category	Total of respondents	Average of score	Category
Batudulang	22	23.1	Average	22	31.8	Good
Punik	23	24.3	Average	22	32.9	Good
Pusu	30	24.3	Average	30	30.1	Good
Sempe Atas	30	25.9	Average	30	27.6	Average
Sempe Bawah	30	27.5	Average	30	28.4	Average
Semamung	28	26.3	Average	29	32.4	Good
Brangrea Luar	30	25.9	Average	30	30.1	Good
	Total: 193	25.3	Moderate	Total: 193	30.5	Good

Note: knowledge score = excellent (40–50), good (30–39), average (20–29), below average (10–19), and bad (0–9). Attitude score = excellent (40–49), good (30–39), average (20–29), below average (10–19), and bad (0–9).

their knowledge to conserve water and soil was poor. They practices slash and burn for opening forest as planting preparation in indigenous way. Community admitted that it was difficult to open forest without burning due to lack of investment and human resources. Furthermore, slash and burning is local tradition for opening forest in cheap way.

### 3 Forest maintenance

Community members have already understood which trees are susceptible to attack by pests and diseases, but they depended on chemical control of pests and diseases. Some community members neglected pest and disease damage to their plantation due to lack of income to invest in protection.

### 4 Forest business

Community people lacked business management skills to manage forest products. They sold products such as coffee beans, candle nut, medical plant in raw materials to middlemen. Generally, middlemen controlled prices, so farmers' bargaining position was weak. Middlemen were from both inside and outside of village and sometime gave loans to community people, so they agreed to sell their farming products to middlemen.

### 5 Forest policy

Knowledge of local communities regarding forest policy was lack. Community people have noticed that FMU of Batulanteh is government institution for forest management in Sumbawa District. However they did not well understand about location of protection and production forest in FMU of Batulanteh as well as the meaning and objectives of forest types (conservation forest, protection forest, and production forest) although they were familiar with these terminologies. Plenty of border signs were provided for clear information of forest types and boundaries, but communities could not understand. FMU staffs and other institutions have not socialized yet about forest type in Indonesia to local communities.

### 6 Community participation

Community participation was dependent on activities

of forestry institutions, both government and non-government institutions. Generally, communities will be active if there were forestry activities in their area. Therefore, role of government and other institution was important to stimulate community participation.

Generally, communities had good attitudes towards protection forest conservation although the character of sub-villages was different as shown in Table 2. The community attitudes were related to social interaction, forest business and utilization, community activities in forest which were followed:

### 7 Social interaction

Generally, all communities could manage social interaction well. Community people gathered together with family and their neighbors on Friday as their day-off from farming and other activities and the day for praying together in the mosque. Besides that, they helped each other in arranging special events such as wedding party, baby-birth party by collecting money and manpower to prepare and manage the event. Although jealousy among people did exist, serious conflicts were rare in communities.

### 8 Forest business and utilization

Generally, community people had good attitudes and felt optimist to conduct sustainable forest business and utilization, although they realized their weaknesses in marketing. Community people of Batudulang, Punik, and Semamung tended to conserve forest to sustain forest honey that they would refuse forest conversion in their area. Furthermore, forest monitoring was often conducted by FMU staff in there, so eventually community people's knowledge has increased and it influenced their attitude on forest conservation such as realizing that logging and forest opening are illegal activities, although some people from Batudulang and Punik conducted forest clearing for establishing coffee plantations and some people from Semamung cut trees illegally for business due to economic reason. This condition was different with community people of Sempe Atas and Sempe Bawah that some people conducted

illegal activities without feeling guilty. Sempe Atas and Sempe Bawah communities were being issues as illegal logger for collecting tree lichen (*Usnea barbata*) by cutting the trees and neglected the fall trees. The tree lichen would be sold to middlemen and will be used as cosmetic materials, herbal medicine, and decoration.

#### 9 Community activities in forest

Community had large farming area which was located in surrounding of forest. They passed protection forest area as shorter way to go to their farming land. In the way of forest, they observed and looked for tangible potencies of forest, such as timber and non timber forest product. The collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collection, such as wild honey, mushroom, rattan, coffee, and candle nuts, was the most frequent activity in the protection forest areas mentioned by the households. Generally, wild honey, coffee, and candle nuts were sold to improve their cash income, while rattan and mushrooms were used for their own consumption (Setiajiati *et al.* 2018). Community people also conducted illegal activities, such as logging for timber and *U. barbata* and clearing forests for coffee plantations and agricultural activities.

Based on the questionnaire survey and interview result, formal education of respondents did not influence their knowledge and attitude towards protection forest conservation. Through this study, we explored and found that non-formal education (e.g. training and forestry extension programs) influenced more on knowledge and attitudes than formal education. It showed that community empowerment was really essential and needed to develop community capacities. The age of respondents also did not influence knowledge and attitude on protection forest conservation. Some old people well understood about forest management, but other old people were not. Several young people also had good knowledge and attitudes of forest management, but the others were not. This is contrary to the results from Ansong and Roskaft (2011) and Ratsimbazafy *et al.* (2012) who stated that older people were more likely to hold favorable attitude towards conservation. Several respondents who get cash income highly had better attitudes on protection forest. This is in line with other studies from Badola *et al.* (2012) and Infield and Namara (2001) which showed that local communities will hold positive attitudes towards forest management and conservation if they received many benefits from forest.

**Evaluation of FMU's community empowerment program** Community empowerment has been conducted by FMU of Batulanteh in several sub-villages surrounding FMU of Batulanteh. Several FMU staff have communicated with community and educated young villagers to participate in forest conservation. However, activities of community empowerment and extension service were not equally distributed among the villages because the FMU of Batulanteh focused on several areas such as Batudulang, Punik, Semamung Sub-Village only. Besides, community empowerment was not conducted in a regular way.

Because of experiencing trainings, forestry extension, and FMU's programs, some Batudulang people came up with negative perception that FMU and government seems highly

suspicious on their existence because of over monitoring and warning about illegal logging and land encroachment. In contrast, other sub-villages did not have attention as much as FMU treated to Batudulang sub-village. Sampe Atas, Sempe Bawah, Pusu, and Brangrea Luar sub-village had no training or community empowerment program at all, so several its community did not know about FMU existing. Although Batudulang sub-village got community empowerment programs more than others, local community knowledge on protection forest conservation was the same like others (Table 2). Community gained incomplete information from guidance leading to misunderstanding of perception on forest. This is probably because of inaccurate and weak delivery during incomplete and irregular program. It showed that community empowerment program has not influenced knowledge improvement. However, the program influenced changing attitudes of communities, in which Batudulang, Punik, and Semamung communities had more positive attitude than other communities (Table 2). Communities of Batudulang, Punik, Semamung have understood the illegal activities in the forest and participated in forest monitoring and conservation, although some people conducted illegal activities due to economic reason.

There was a huge gap of knowledge among individuals within their community. Several people had high knowledge and experience about forest and agriculture, but the others did not. It showed that information transferring did not occur among community people and individuals. The high knowledge and experience was not been influenced by age, gender, and educational level, but the activeness of individuals in forestry program influenced the improvement of knowledge and experience. Local community also admitted that they did not well understand during forestry extension process. Since information transferring seems to be one way, it was really difficult to get feedback from the communities. Consequently, there is no way to assess the effectiveness of forestry extension. Furthermore, door to door system of forestry extension was conducted in Batudulang and Semamung, again, this process did not spread equally for each households. Several respondents complained unequal empowerment because of personal interests of FMU personals such as business and friendship relationship between FMU staff and some local people. This information could be notes for FMU of Batulanteh to improve performance of staffs and its management.

Staffs of FMU of Batulanteh stated that the limited FMU staffs were one of the factors which caused unequally community empowerment program. The total number of FMU staff was 31, which seems to be limited to manage a forest area of 32,776 ha in interaction with the local communities. Overall, although community empowerment program was not effective yet, most local community admitted that existing of FMU of Batulanteh was better for their capability and forest conservation than before. In general, the local communities appreciated the training and forestry extension from FMU of Batulanteh.

#### Strategies of community empowerment program

Empowerment is constructing a link individual strength and competency, natural serving structure, and proactive behaviour for either social policy or social change

(Rappaport 1984 cited by Perkins 1995). The concept of the empowerment program has to be designed in balance between community resources and its program objective as sustainable development (Arifudin *et al.* 2013).

All communities requested that community empowerment program needed to be conducted in regular schedule, starting from basic aspects of ecological knowledge. The schedule may follow community agenda. Community has weekly gathering agenda, such as gathering for prayer on Friday where community empowerment program could take place. During gathering in Mosque, villager representative sometimes announced important message and continued with community empowerment program. It is rather effective and well addressed because the number of participant were higher than unscheduled guidance. Basic knowledge is necessary, and gaining comprehensive explanation is likely more sophisticated for them.

FMU staffs need to release personal interest in community empowerment. All sub-villages surrounding protection forests have the right to receive community empowerment program. As a starting point, FMU staffs need to visit all sub-villages and introduce existing of FMU of Batulanteh to show that protection forest is not public goods. FMU can open internship opportunity for college students to help community empowerment regarding FMU introduction. Sumbawa District has several universities which need internship program for building students capacity. It will be good cooperation between FMU of Batulanteh and academics for empowering local community and other activities. Non-government organizations (NGOs) and environmental voluntary groups in Sumbawa can also be requested to join in community empowerment program.

Generally, local community had willing to conserve protection forest, but they needed cash income for subsistence. They were not experienced and lack of knowledge to get more income while also conserving forest. This condition was more likely “to know, willing but unable to carry out” the sustainability (Budiono 2006) due to economic needs and lack of empowerment. Economic factors were always mentioned by all respondents as important, as they have low income. They need activities which can support the households' income. This might be instrumental for sustaining forest conservation. Based on this information, programs of community empowerment can be prioritized on economy aspects, conservation agriculture, and illegal activities prevention, as following:

#### 1 Economy aspects

FMU of Batulanteh can improve community economic welfare by giving job opportunities to involve in FMU activities. FMU of Batulanteh has involved local community in several activities such as collecting research data and boundaries monitoring. However, these activities were only momentary, not continuously. FMU of Batulanteh needs to provide opportunity to make sustainably cooperation with local community, such as building nursery, one of results in FGD. Every year in wet season, forest rehabilitation and enrichment always be conducted by FMU of Batulanteh and other institutions related to environment protection. Nursery business can be conducted continuously every year to

support land rehabilitation and plantation enrichment program.

FMU of Batulanteh needs human resource with high both in quality and quantity due to the limited staffs for referred to the large concession. In staff recruitment, local community should be the main priority and several local candidates could be potential recruited. By recruiting local community as staff, the process of information transfer would be more effective and the sense of belonging would be appeared. By field observation during four months in Sumbawa District, potentially local communities were available in Sumbawa District as well as in community living adjacent to the forests. Local community also stated that they wanted to contribute in protection forest management in authorized forestry institution, it means FMU of Batulanteh.

In our study, wild honey was shown to be a good option for providing additional income, in which one of the best wild honey in Indonesia (both in quantity and quality aspects). Forest area of Batulanteh can produce 15 ton year<sup>-1</sup> wild honey, mostly from protection forest area (FMU of Batulanteh 2012). Furthermore, Sumbawa honey contains more anti-bacteria and anti-oxidant than Sumatera and Kalimantan wild honey (Sholihah 2013) which useful for body healthy. The local communities who involved in wild honey business were still limited. Besides of wild honey, coffee and candle nut were also high commodities of local community. Unfortunately, the communities stated that they had no power to control the price of wild honey, coffee, candle nut but they were dependent on buyer competition for price decision. They sold raw honey, coffee, candle nut; they had no derived product to increase profit. Therefore, empowerment and cooperation in marketing and manufacturing of non-timber forest products is prospectively essential.

#### 2 Conservation agriculture

Information regarding hydrological system is needed to determine activities in protection forest without reducing its main function. However the information of watershed and hydrological system in FMU of Batulanteh is still limited. The rainfall density is 746–2,556 mm year<sup>-1</sup> and climate type is D and E based on Schmidt and Ferguson, and temperature is 24– 32 °C. Soil types in protection forest area are latisol, litosol and mediteran (FMU of Batulanteh 2012). Litosol soil has thin solum and high erodibility due to high erosion and it is available in steep areas. This soil is good for trees, cattle grass, and corn. Mediteran soil has intermediate until thick solum, intermediate erodibility, and low organic material (Rachim & Arifin 2011).

In order to protect hydrological system and also stimulate community participation, FMU of Batulanteh needs to develop agriculture system which is applicable in protection forest area. Conservation agriculture is one of solution to meet ecology, social, and economic interest. Conservation agriculture is defined as agriculture system which has minimal soil disturbance and permanent soil cover combined with rotations. Conservation agriculture can improve agriculture through improvement in water infiltration and reducing erosion. It also helps reduce costs of production, saves time, increases yield through more timely

planting (Hobbs 2007). Conservation agriculture can increase crop yield by 4.6% on average (Zheng *et al.* 2014).

FMU of Batulanteh and local community can make partnerships for coffee plantation and/or agricultural plantation by agroforestry system in degraded forest area. It refers to case in Lampung that successfully rehabilitated degraded land by establishment of coffee based agroforestry in state forest area (Suyanto *et al.* 2005). Based on field checking by FMU's staffs, critical protection forest was about 209 ha, rather critic was 1,216 ha, and potentially critics was 5,747 ha. Protection forest in good condition was about 5,344 ha (37%). Coffee plantation in protection forest was 344 ha and degraded forest due to agricultural plantation has not identified yet. Agroforestry system in protection forest may be applied because it can maintain soil and conserve watershed, and its erosion rate is mutual in primary forests (Verbist *et al.* 2005; van Noordwijk *et al.* 2007). Furthermore, protection forest ecosystem will be stable in multi-species composition, prosperous natural regeneration, and optimal forest structure (Motta & Haudemand 2000). Species composition needs to be suitable with its eco-region (Dorren *et al.* 2004). Therefore, agroforestry based good silvicultural techniques in protection forest will be no problem. As a note agroforestry systems should be implemented as a rehabilitation activity in degraded forests but not by cutting primary forests.

FMU of Batulanteh and local community need to determine agroforestry pattern to get highest benefits from an ecological, economical, and social perspective. Most farmers consider economical aspects more than biodiversity interests, such as observed in North Lampung (Wulandari *et al.* 2014). Furthermore, problem of protection forest in Sumbawa and Lampung are rather similar in case of illegal coffee plantation. Wulandari *et al.* (2014) stated that the highest net-present-value (NPV) of agroforestry pattern in North Lampung is rubber-coffee-wood plants-fruits. FMU of Batulanteh can adopt and modify this pattern based on Sumbawa condition, for example, by applying coffee-wood plant-food plant.

The best forest management is when it is closest to nature (Larsen 2015), thus planting indigenous species is more recommendable than non indigenous species. Based on field observation and literatures, several indigenous species of timber trees suitable to be planted in Sumbawa are *Tetramales sp.*, *Eugenia luminii*, *Arthocephalus cadamba*, *Duabanga moluccana*. Wild bees (*Apis dorsata*) like to make honey nest in *Tetramales sp.*, so it will be good for wild honey production. Meanwhile, *E. luminii*, *A. cadamba*, *D. moluccana* are fast growing species which can make various stratum of canopy easily and quickly. Food plants suitable to Sumbawa are corn, paddy, and *Colocasia sp.*. These species can grow well with *D. moluccana* (Surata 2007). Business of corn in Sumbawa also provides economic profit (Nurwahidah 2007).

### 3 Illegal activities prevention

In the partnership, FMU of Batulanteh can make agreement and requirement for community to ask their participation in maintaining and monitoring forest. Collaborative monitoring can build trust internally and credibility externally, share ecological understanding among

diverse participants, foster social learning and community-building, and advance adaptive management (Fernandez-Gimenez *et al.* 2008). Community people have responsibility to conserve forest, so joint-responsibility of forest conservation is shared to all stakeholders who have partnership with FMU of Batulanteh. Punishments need to be declared clearly, in case community violates the agreement of partnership. On the other side, FMU of Batulanteh also needs to provide reward for community for their cooperativeness, such as helping nursery, marketing, and fertilizer for their agriculture activities. Therefore, reward-punishment system can be conducted to prevent illegal activities in protection forest. FMU of Batulanteh can also cooperate with academics, NGO, and/or other government agency to give environmental education for village youths to improve their environment awareness.

### Conclusion

The knowledge of local communities on protection forest conservation was in average level, while their attitudes towards conservation were assessed as being on a higher level. The community empowerment program of FMU of Batulanteh had no significant influence on knowledge improvement, but it was effective for changing the community attitudes on protection forest conservation. Non-formal education such as training and forestry extension program is more influenced on knowledge and attitude than formal education, so community knowledge and attitudes can be improved through training and extension. Local communities had willing to conserve protection forest but they needed cash income for subsistence. Therefore, community empowerment program needed to be prioritized on economic aspects, conservation agriculture, and illegal activities prevention.

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