# Payment for what? The realities of forestry benefit sharing under joint forest management in a major teak plantation region of Java, Indonesia

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4 Masahiko Ota<sup>1\*</sup>, Misa Masuda<sup>2</sup>, Kaori Shiga<sup>3</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Institute of Liberal Arts, Kyushu Institute of Technology, 1-1 Sensuicho, Tobata, Kitakyushu 804-8550, Japan
- <sup>6</sup> <sup>2</sup> Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba 305-8572, Japan

7 <sup>3</sup> Department of Forest Policy and Economics, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, 1 Matsunosato, Tsukuba

8 305-8687, Japan

<sup>9</sup> \* Corresponding Author: Masahiko Ota, Tel: +81-93-884-3452, E-mail address: ota@dhs.kyutech.ac.jp, ORCID ID:
10 0000-0003-3959-3125

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12 Abstract This paper explores the realities of forestry benefit sharing under joint forest management 13 in a major teak plantation region of Java, Indonesia, with reference to empirical information about the 14 uses and effects of monetary benefits in terms of stakeholder power relations. The authors intend to 15 enrich current understandings of the pitfalls of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level. The 16 analysis focuses on institutional designs of benefit sharing, recent statistical realities of shared benefits, 17 the uses of monetary benefits in villages, and the livelihood and conservation implications of shared 18 benefits through household surveys. The results confirm that the benefit-sharing system has been 19 neither effective nor equitable economically (ineffective investment, a distribution policy preferring 20 villages' wants, and a lack of attempts to improve general farmers' livelihoods and pro-poor 21 arrangements), ecologically (little change in forest protection systems and continuing illegal logging 22 and unofficial forestland cultivation), and in terms of governance (elite capture and a lack of 23 downward accountability). Limited capacity, downward accountability of committee executive 24 members and a laissez-faire attitude of forest administrators were also observed. A laissez-faire policy 25 of forest administration under the frameworks of joint forest management can create room for elite 26 capture as well as ineffective conservation and poor livelihood outcomes and should thus be avoided. 27 Appropriate and supportive facilitation and collaboration from the outside to develop the capacity and 28 downward accountability of village-level decision makers is needed. These issues are increasingly 29 important in the context of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus 30 (REDD+).

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Keywords stakeholder, power bargaining, forest administration, elite capture, encroachment,
 livelihood

#### 34 Introduction

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36 Politics and trade-offs inevitably arise when discussing which functions of forests are to be prioritized 37 for whom. Forest policy can be defined as a "social bargaining process which regulates conflicts of 38 interest in utilizing and protecting forests according to the programs of the forest sector" (Krott 2005, 39 p.12). Analyzing a policy in terms of power bargaining among stakeholders is a meaningful task in 40 the forest sector, particularly when the object of analysis is community-based forest resource 41 management or joint forest management. Community-based initiatives are increasingly recognized as 42 being mostly driven by the interests of powerful stakeholders, which in turn affect social, economic, 43 and ecological outcomes (Schusser et al. 2015).

44 It could be beneficial to examine stakeholder power bargaining in state-community joint forest 45 management with special reference to some local realities of benefit sharing. Benefit sharing can be 46 traced to pilot projects of community forestry in the 1970s (Arnold 2001), when the concept was 47 introduced as a means to induce forest-dependent local people to participate in reforestation and forest 48 conservation in anticipation of opportunities to improve their livelihoods. In recent developments 49 involving Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+), the concept 50 has included far more diverse and complex mechanisms for sharing both monetary and non-monetary 51 benefits beyond the village level, as well as beginning to encompass broader forms of social 52 accountability and responsibility (Luttrell et al. 2013; Pham et al. 2013). Pham et al. (2013) have 53 proposed some possible patterns of REDD+ benefit sharing, including fund-based approaches, forest 54 concessions, access and benefit sharing, market-based instruments (e.g., payments for environmental 55 services and clean development mechanisms), land fees, community-based natural resource 56 management, and joint forest management.

57 In benefit sharing at the local level, the meaning and intention of benefit sharing vary according 58 to stakeholders. For the forest administration, benefit sharing is the most important incentive for 59 transforming the behavior of local peasants in a way that does not harm forest resources. In that light, 60 along with coercion and trust, incentives rank among the three elements of power (Krott et al. 2014). 61 For villagers, on the one hand, monetary benefits could primarily represent a new opportunity or 62 resource for community development. On the other hand, villages are not monolithic, and because 63 benefits are tangible, they could be subject to elite capture. Elite capture can be defined as "the process 64 by which local elites—individuals with superior political status due to economic, educational, ethnic, 65 or other social characteristics—take advantage of their positions to amass a disproportionately large 66 share of resources or a flow of benefits" (Persha and Andersson 2014, p.265). Thus, the intentions of the stakeholders can be contested and manipulated by each other (Krott 2005; Schusser et al. 2015).

68 As a result, securing the 3Es—equity, effectiveness, and efficiency—is always a challenge under 69 benefit-sharing mechanisms (Wong et al. 2017). Equitable processes are typically difficult to realize, 70 because powerful stakeholders often, both intentionally and unintentionally, dominate or manipulate 71 decision-making processes and, in turn, gain greater benefits than ordinary participants do (Pham et 72 al. 2013; Persha and Andersson 2014; Andersson et al. 2018), whereas the identities or values of less 73 powerful stakeholders may be ignored (Martin et al. 2016). In such circumstances, efforts toward 74 forest conservation and livelihood development can often be ineffective in terms of outcomes as well 75 as inefficient in terms of costs.

No matter how broad and complex benefit-sharing mechanisms become in the era of REDD+, delivering benefits at the local level in equitable, effective, and efficient ways presents a persistent challenge. Thus, it is important to accumulate detailed knowledge from existing programs or projects about how attempts at sustainable forest management with benefit-sharing arrangements can fail, for such knowledge can inform us about possible pitfalls of policy implementation and ways to avoid them.

82 To acquire such knowledge, it is necessary to empirically examine how benefits are disbursed to 83 participants and used at the local level by referring to concrete stakeholder relations. However, such 84 examinations have been limited. Chhetri et al. (2012) and Pham et al. (2014) have presented detailed 85 information about how monetary benefits were distributed and used in a community forestry program 86 in Nepal and a payment-for-environmental-services program in Vietnam, respectively. Nevertheless, 87 neither of those investigations sufficiently explored the aspects of contestation among stakeholders— 88 that is, who benefited on the ground. Moreover, although other studies have focused on stakeholder 89 power bargaining in relation to community forestry (Maryudi 2011; Nath et al. 2016), they have rarely 90 provided empirical information about benefit sharing.

91 This paper explores the realities of forestry benefit sharing under joint forest management in a 92 major teak plantation region of Java, Indonesia, including empirical information about the uses and 93 effects of monetary benefits in terms of stakeholder power relations. As examined throughout the 94 paper, the case involved benefit sharing that had not been functioning equitably, effectively, or 95 efficiently. The research question of the paper is what kind of stakeholder power relations could be 96 confirmed in the case and how such stakeholder relations have been responsible for the ineffectiveness, 97 inefficiency, and inequity observed. Ultimately, the authors aim to enrich the current understandings 98 of the pitfalls of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level to contribute to building equitable, 99 effective, and efficient forest management practices.

#### 100 The Context of Java, Indonesia

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102 The island of Java in Indonesia has been at the forefront of social bargaining processes over state 103 forestland. Unlike in other parts of Southeast Asia, a rigid forest administration has been in place in 104 Java since the Dutch colonial period. Since 1972, Perum Perhutani, or the State Forestry Corporation 105 (SFC), has managed Java's production forests and protected forests as a forest administration body. 106 Production forests in Java comprise mostly high-value teak (Tectona grandis) and pine (Pinus 107 merkusii) plantations, for which the SFC has established and operated an intensive management 108 system with clearly demarcated forestlands, systematic and detailed management plans, and 109 professional foresters. The SFC is a state-owned enterprise and, as such, is subject to the supervision 110 of state authorities, including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

111 In terms of demography, Java is an area with high population density, i.e., more than 1,000 112 people/km<sup>2</sup>. As a consequence, mediating intense demand from local peasants for smallholdings inside 113 forestland has been one of the greatest challenges for the SFC. One notable method applied has been 114 tumpangsari, an agroforestry-cum-reforestation system in which contract farmers plant and tend teak 115 trees on certain plots of forestland. In exchange, the farmers are permitted to cultivate annual food 116 crops between the rows of teak trees for three years, by which time the tree canopy closes and 117 precludes the growth of such crops (Whitten et al. 1996). The tumpangsari reforestation system not 118 only afforded peasants temporary cultivation plots within forestland but also allowed the SFC to secure 119 a labor force for reforestation. However, even with the implementation of the system, peasant demand 120 for agricultural fields remained extremely high. Peluso (1992) characterized such conventional 121 situations of rural Javanese forestry areas as having "rich forests, poor people," for the SFC's rigid 122 control over forest resources had typically perpetuated the impoverishment of local peasants. In the 123 1980s, under the influence of donors, academics, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the 124 SFC developed a social forestry program out of its earlier initiatives geared toward local peasants 125 (Shiga et al. 2012; Siscawati 2012). Forestry and other ways of supporting local livelihoods were 126 partly included in that social forestry initiative.

127 The relationship between forest administration and local communities on Java has changed 128 drastically since 1997. Triggered by political economic turmoil due to the Asian financial crisis and 129 the collapse of the Suharto regime, the looting of plantation forests in the form of illegal logging and 130 the encroachment into forestland intensified sharply in the late 1990s (Wulan et al. 2004). As the 131 structure that the SFC had established became paralyzed, forest management became impossible to 132 control. To cope with the situation, the SFC introduced *Pergelolaan Sumberdaya Hutan Bersama*  Masyarakat, or Joint Forest Management (JFM), in 2001. JFM is a community forestry initiative in which committees, known as *Lembaga Masyarakat Desa Hutan*, are formed at the village level, and the SFC cooperates with them in managing state forests based on formal contracts. Official benefit sharing mechanisms from forestry production represent one of the most distinctive features compared to earlier trials of social forestry.

138 Overall, scholarly evaluations of JFM have been mixed. Despite some indications that JFM has 139 contributed to local livelihoods (Fujiwara et al. 2012; Yokota et al. 2014) and forest restoration 140 (Prasetvo et al. 2012), some researchers have pointed out that benefits for ordinary peasants remain 141 inadequate (Maryudi 2011) and that the effects on forest restoration remain dubious (Shiga et al. 2012). 142 In terms of governance, JFM has been criticized for not providing proper information or transparency 143 and for being prone to the elite capture of resources (Maryudi 2011; Djamhuri 2012; Fujiwara et al. 144 2012; Shiga et al. 2012). Indeed, Maryudi's (2011) comprehensive analysis of stakeholder power 145 relations indicated that the JFM's process had often been manipulated and captured by powerful 146 stakeholders, namely the SFC and the village elite, which had hindered the empowerment of general 147 peasants working with JFM as a result.

As mentioned, the sharing of monetary benefits generated from forestry production by the SFC with JFM committees is one of the most significant institutional changes brought about by JFM, in teak and pine plantation areas alike. However, despite its importance and the presence of a few empirical (Djamhuri 2012) and theoretical (Lee et al. 2018; Kubo et al. 2018) studies, comprehensive accounts on benefit sharing under JFM have remained unavailable.

153 In the following sections, the authors first explore the institutional designs of benefit sharing, 154 some statistical realities of shared benefits, the uses of monetary benefits in villages, and the livelihood 155 and conservation implications of shared benefits. The paper demonstrates that JFM and its benefit-156 sharing initiative have been neither effective nor equitable in terms of the economy, ecology, or 157 governance. Second, the authors attempt to explain why the policy instrument has resulted in such 158 ineffectiveness and inequity, with specific reference to the political relations among stakeholders. 159 Following Maryudi (2011) and Shiga et al. (2012), the paper focuses particularly on the SFC (forest 160 administration), executive members of JFM committees (forest user group representatives), and 161 general villagers as the most important stakeholders under JFM.

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#### 163 The Study Site

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165 The SFC has its own administrative units that do not align with general administrative units (Fig. 3).

This paper focuses on the Randublatung Forest District (equivalent to a district) of the Central Java Regional Division (equivalent to a province) (Fig. 1). The forest district is located within the administrative boundaries of the Blora District of Central Java Province, with an area of 32,464 ha. The state forests in the Randublatung Forest District are all categorized as production forests, and all of them are teak plantations. The Randublatung Forest District was selected due to it being a major teak plantation area and providing the greatest monetary amount of shared benefits to JFM committees in Central Java at the time of the authors' fieldwork.

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Fig. 1 Location of the Randublatung Forest District in Central Java (adapted from Randublatung ForestDistrict 2016)

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Similar to other parts of Java (e.g., Maryudi et al. 2016), the state forests in the Randublatung Forest District have been severely degraded, particularly due to widespread illegal logging and encroachment during the insurgent period of 1997–2003. Before 2003, the extensive looting of forests prompted a drastic increase in nonproductive forest areas (Fig. 2); however, the damage was not so severe as to denude all forest areas in the forest district.



Total non-productive forests

Total productive forests

184

Fig. 2 Areas of productive and non-productive forests in the Randublatung Forest District according
to 10-year forest management plans (Randublatung Forest District 2016)

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In the Randublatung Forest District, JFM has been in place since around 2003, and as of the beginning of 2018, a total of 34 JFM committees were established in each of the 34 villages in the district. As mentioned, according to forest districtwide data for Central Java, the monetary amount of benefit sharing under JFM is largest in Randublatung.

192 Regarding socioeconomic conditions, the population density in the Blora District in 2014 was 193 466 people/km<sup>2</sup>. That population density is high for rural forestry areas in Java. By land use, the Blora 194 District includes approximately 50% forest, 25% paddy fields, 14% dry fields, 9% gardens, and 2% 195 other uses. 99% of the forests are state forests. Irrigation is limited, and 65% of paddy fields are rain-196 fed only. Since 2011, annual rainfall has ranged from 1,300 to 1,400 mm/yr. As income sources in 197 rural areas have become limited, increasingly more young people have migrated from rural to urban 198 areas. In fact, statistics show that the 20–29-year-old population in the Blora District is significantly 199 less than other age groups, for both men and women. It is the general understanding that people in the 200 Blora District are not materially well-off (Statistics Indonesia 2015).

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#### 202 **Research Methods**

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The study presented here involved various methods of data collection and diverse sources of information (Table 1). First, the authors visited the Central Java Regional Division office and the Randublatung Forest District office of the SFC in March 2016, August 2016, January 2017, and January 2018 to collect official documents and statistics related to forestry, benefit-sharing institutions, the disbursement of shared benefits, and profiles of JFM committees. The authors communicated with several foresters in the Randublatung Forest District to clarify the organizational structure and implementation of JFM; on those occasions, the authors also obtained information about their perceptions of JFM and local peasants. The statistics collected supported classifying the JFM committees in the Randublatung Forest District into large, medium, and small committees according to the total amount of shared benefits received (Fig. 4).

- 214
- 215 Table 1 Methods of data collection

Method	Ν	Note	Source of information
Statistical analysis of shared benefits	34	All JFM committees in the Randublatung Forest District	Official documents and statistics provided by the SFC
Committee-level surveys on JFM activities and the uses of shared benefits	14	14 randomly selected committees of all 34 committees	Surveys based on face-to-face interviews with presidents and executive members of committees
Household surveys on awareness of JFM and implications for livelihoods and conservation	48 and 43	<ul><li>48 randomly selected households</li><li>in two subvillages in Nala</li><li>43 randomly selected households</li><li>in two subvillages in Bodang</li></ul>	Surveys based on face-to-face interviews with heads of households

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217 Of the 34 JFM committees established in the Randublatung Forest District, 14 committees (41% 218 to the total) were randomly selected and directly visited by the authors in August 2016 and January 219 2017. Guided by official staff members and SFC employees, the authors conducted surveys for the 220 presidents and other executive members of the committees about basic characteristics of the 221 committees, uses of shared benefits in the village, and activities conducted by the committees. The 222 characteristics of the executive members of committees were also confirmed, where possible. The 223 authors directly interviewed with the informants face-to-face in Indonesian, with a help of SFC 224 employees who accompanied with them. The interviews lasted approximately an hour on average, and 225 the data collected were summarized as descriptive statistics.

Household surveys were conducted to examine the implications of shared benefits for the livelihood of locals and conservation efforts, which cannot be fully understood from the information provided by presidents and executive members alone. The authors selected two villages, pseudonymously called Nala and Bodang, from the 14 villages (i.e., JFM committees) visited for household surveys; Nala was selected from the group of large committees and Bodang from the group of medium committees (Fig. 4). The authors acknowledge that information about two villages does not represent an adequate overview of the Randublatung Forest District. The authors' intention was to derive implications regarding the extent to which the benefits committees received could improve forest conservation and local livelihoods. The authors did not conduct household surveys representing the small committees, for it was expected that little could be observed among them in terms of benefit sharing due to the small amounts of money available.

The villages of Nala and Bodang consist of seven and four subvillages, respectively. In both villages, two subvillages were strongly engaged with JFM, whereas the other subvillages have little to do with the system, primarily because they are geographically distant. Thus, the authors focused on the two active subvillages in each village and randomly selected households therein for surveys. Ultimately, 48 households in Nala and 43 households in Bodang were interviewed, representing 14% and 19%, respectively, of the total households in the two subvillages in each village.

243 The authors directly visited the houses of informants guided by leaders of neighborhood 244 associations in the subvillages and conducted face-to-face interviews with them based on 245 questionnaires. Informants (i.e., household heads) were asked about the basic characteristics of their 246 households, livelihoods, gross incomes, and knowledge and perceptions of JFM and benefit sharing. 247 As an ethical protocol approved by the first author's institution, the authors explained at the beginning 248 of the interviews that all personal information obtained would be used for academic purposes only. 249 The interviews lasted approximately an hour on average. The household surveys were performed for 250 Nala in January 2017 and for Bodang in January 2018. The data obtained were summarized as 251 descriptive statistics. The authors also performed chi-squared tests to confirm the statistical 252 significance of relationships between household characteristics and whether their cultivation plots 253 were located within forestland.

The visits with 14 committees and household surveys in two villages—supplemented each other; the former quantitatively confirmed the uses and activities involved with shared benefits, particularly corresponding to equity aspects, while the latter deeply examined the effects of shared benefits, particularly in terms of effectiveness and efficiency.

258

259 **Results** 

#### 260 Governance structures of JFM

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JFM committees are formulated at the village level, and certain areas of state forests are designated to each committee. Committees and the SFC sign formal contracts with JFM. Committees consist of executive members and general members. Committees, with the cooperation of the SFC, formulate activity plans and implement them, with the rights for receiving forestry benefit sharing and theresponsibilities for protecting designated forests (Fig. 3).





269 Fig. 3 Governance structures of Joint Forest Management (adapted from Shiga et al. 2012)

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271 JFM has an official structure involving various stakeholders. First, the village, subdistrict, district, 272 and provincial governments officially engage in JFM processes by way of Communication Forums 273 (Fig. 3), which are official meetings for coordinating, sharing information, and promoting activities 274 under JFM. The forums generally include the heads of each level of government, namely elected 275 politicians. Although there are few rules about the eligibility, executive members of JFM committees 276 generally include village functionaries and other influential people at the village level, who could be 277 called the village elite (Djamhuri 2012). Thus, JFM is implemented not inside the jurisdiction of the 278 forest administration alone; governments represented by political leaders and the village elite are also 279 involved in the process.

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### 281 Arrangements and statistics of benefit sharing

282

283 As the SFC had developed substantive forest management systems before the introduction of JFM,

284 forestry operations are administered according to SFC's long-term and short-term forest management

plans even under JFM (Fig. 3). Hence, the locations and timings of thinnings and final harvests are
determined by the SFC, taking forest age structures and conditions into consideration (Djamhuri 2012).
In this sense, there was little room for JFM committees to add their opinions on the system of forestry
operations, except for tree plantations established by committees based on JFM agreements (e.g.,
Fujiwara et al. 2012).

290 Profits derived from each harvesting site, or coupe (anak petak), where timber operations were 291 conducted were precisely recorded and calculated by the SFC. There were fixed formulas for 292 calculating the total amount of gross share due to a JFM committee. Variables included the times when 293 the trees had been planted on the coupe, when the JFM agreement had been made, and when timber 294 was harvested on the coupe, as well as some correction factors (e.g., the extent to which the trees on 295 the coupe had been damaged due to illegal logging by the time of final harvest). The possible 296 maximum share for JFM committees from a coupe is 25%. After deducting tax, the net amounts of 297 benefit for each committee are fixed. With the system of correction factors, the method of benefit-298 sharing provision could be said to be a performance-based system to some extent.

299 Figure 4 shows the total cumulative disbursements to JFM committees from 2003 to 2014 in the 300 Randublatung Forest District. It is confirmed that the amounts varied significantly across committees. 301 Some committees had received quite large amounts. The greatest value was around Rp. (Indonesian 302 rupiah) 5.5 billion, approximately USD 379,500. On the other hand, a large portion of committees 303 were allocated less than Rp. 1 billion. Several committees had received nominal amounts of timber 304 benefit sharing of less than Rp. 100 million for 11 years. These differences can be attributed to whether 305 the designated forest areas contained high value timber trees and whether harvesting operations are 306 scheduled in the designated forest areas in the SFC's long-term forest management plan. Focusing on 307 areas of designated forests, based on the presumption that the larger the designated forest areas are, 308 the more likely they will contain high value timber trees and schedules of final harvesting, it was 309 confirmed that committees with large areas had received larger amounts (Fig. 4); the correlation was 310 significant at the 1% level (p=0.000).



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Fig. 4 The amounts of shared benefits from 2003 to 2014 and forest areas assigned among the all JFM
 committees in the Randublatung Forest District (n=34) <sup>a</sup>

315 <sup>a</sup> The amount of "cross-subsidies" is not included

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For committees with nominal amounts of benefit sharing, a cross-subsidy (*subsidi silang*) system had been applied in the Randublatung Forest District. Based on an agreement, committees with large amounts allocate part of their annual benefits to those committees with no or nominal shared benefits (at most Rp. 10 million) so that these committees can at least provide honoraria for committees' executive members and can conduct some business activities.

The principles of how to use shared benefits were decided every year through official meetings between the subsection of Environmental Development at the Randublatung Forest District office and the 34 committee presidents. The allocations for the year 2014 were as follows: 30% for business activities, 15% for village infrastructure, 17% for administrative costs, 15% for forest management, 10% for social purposes, and 13% for contributions for other stakeholders. These allocations could be modified at the committee level according to actual situations.

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## 329 The uses of and activities with shared benefits by committees

330

Table 2 indicates the kinds of business activity (30% of the total use) and numbers of committees that had tried these activities among the 14 committees surveyed. It was confirmed that activities were mostly non-forestry ones, such as cooperatives, rearing of cows or goats, renting of ceremonial tools,
etc. Rich committees were likely to have conducted rental activities, such as ceremonial tools,
microbuses, or corn shellers, which require considerable capital and have greater profitability.
Business activities were to improve the village economy so that the prosperity of villagers could be
raised.

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339 Table 2 Kinds of business activities and numbers of JFM committees that had ever tried them among

340 the committees surveyed (n=14)

Kind of husiness activities a	Number of JFM		
Kind of busiless activities	committees		
Cooperatives	10		
Rearing of cows	7		
Rental of ceremonial tools	6		
Cultivation of temulawak (Curcuma zanthorrhiza)	5		
Rental of microbuses	3		
Rental of corn shellers	3		
Cultivation of porang (Amorphophallus muelleri)	3		
Rearing of goats	3		

341 <sup>a</sup> Activities conducted by three or more JFM committees are listed

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Figure 5 demonstrates that rich committees were likely to have implemented more business activities, and yet the percentages of the business activities that had been continued by the time of the authors' visits were lower in rich committees. Although the authors could not completely determine how much money was spent, considering the larger amounts of benefits, it is safe for the authors to infer that considerable amounts of money had been used inefficiently.



Fig. 5 Numbers of business activities that had ever been tried and that had been continued by the time of the authors' visits among the committees surveyed (n=14)

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The authors confirmed that shared benefits had been used for various village infrastructural projects (15%), including road improvements, water tank installations, the creation of small reservoirs, and mosque renovations. For example, the richest committee had spent most of its money on improving and extending roads because the village is in a remote area. However, the authors could not obtain quantitative data of the numbers and kinds of village-level infrastructural projects for all 14 committees.

Table 3 lists the items spent for social purposes (10%) and their amounts in the richest and second-richest committees in 2013, based on the annual accounting document that the authors were able to confirm. Social purposes mostly consisted of monetary support for teachers, religious places/leaders, youth groups, etc. It is evident that these expenses have little link to forest management. These purely represented monetary support for the social sectors which were likely lacking sufficient funds for activities.

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	Itam	
	Item	(million Rp.)
	Support for voluntary teachers	6.4
	Increase of nutrition	1.6
	Support for worship places (tempat ibadah)	2.8
D:-1	Salaries for elderly women	1.2
Richest	Expenses for the village council and farmers' groups	18.6
	Expenses for youth organizations (karang taruna)	3.2
	Expenses for social communication	3.4
	Total	37.2
	Support for Islamic schools (madrasah) and kindergartens	6.0
	Support for youth organizations (karang taruna) and the arts	5.0
Second-	Support for worship places (tempat ibadah)	4.0
richest	Treatment and compensation for the bereaved	4.7
	Others	5.0
_	Total	24.7

371 Table 3 Items for social purposes in the richest and second-richest JFM committees in 2013

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373 Regarding forest management (15%), money from the shared benefits was used mostly for hiring 374 villagers as watchmen; contract planting or forestry enterprise activities by committees were not 375 confirmed in this forest district. A total of nine committees had conducted patrol activities. Of these, 376 only the four richest committees, which can afford to pay for hiring watchmen, had been continuing 377 patrol activities by the time of the authors' visits. In Java, as already mentioned, forestry operations 378 including patrol activities had been continuously administered by foresters of the SFC, irrespective of 379 the presence of committees. Systematic operating and patrolling systems had been in place by forest 380 guards and forest police. Hence, for the SFC, even without committees' patrolling and watching 381 activities, it was still possible to continue their forestry operations.

Administrative costs (17%) included necessary expenses for committee activities and honoraria for committee executive members. Contributions for other stakeholders (13%) included honoraria for members of Communication Forums at the village, subdistrict, and district levels (Fig. 3), many of whom were part of the village elite. It was confirmed that at least 30%, generally more, had been used for administrative purposes, including honoraria.

Regarding the characteristics of the executive members of JFM committees, the authors were able to derive complete information from two committees, where household surveys were conducted. Table 4 shows that committee executive members were likely to be people with official positions,

- 390 greater influence on village issues, and greater socioeconomic statuses, who can be regarded as village
- 391 elites; this finding is in line with Djamhuri (2012).
- 392

					8		8
	Village assembly member	Village administra tion member	Influential person in village affairs <sup>a</sup>	SFC staff	Employee	General farmer	Total
Nala	2	7	5	4	6	7	31
	(6.5%)	(22.6%)	(16.1%)	(12.9%)	(19.4%)	(22.6%)	(100.0%)
Bodang	0	5	5	0	0	0	10
	(0.0%)	(50.0%)	(50.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(100.0%)

393 Table 4 Characteristics of JFM committee executive members at the villages of Nala and Bodang

<sup>a</sup> Tokoh Masyarakat, Tokoh Agama, etc.

<sup>395</sup> <sup>b</sup>Residing in Nala or Bodang but working outside the jurisdiction of those villages.

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397 During fieldwork, the authors were told by a couple of forest guards that "uses of shared benefits 398 are a matter of the village." This implies that they are thinking that as benefit sharing is an issue of the 399 village, it would not be appropriate to advise or say something about the uses of shared benefits, as 400 such advice could be seen as a type of intervention. Although forest rangers and forest guards were 401 generally part of the executive members of committees as supervisors or advisors, they appeared not 402 to be the persons who advise on or facilitate the use of shared benefits.

403

## 404 Impacts of benefit sharing: Household surveys in two selected villages

405

Table 5 summarizes several important figures for the villages of Nala and Bodang. The percentages of state forestland in each village were outstandingly high - 89.4% in Nala and 95.7% in Bodang meaning that these villages were surrounded by teak plantation forests. The forest areas designated to the JFM committees were 2,100ha and 1,928ha, respectively. Nala had received the third-largest amount of shared benefits from 2003 to 2014 (Rp. 2,993 million), being part of the "large amount group" in Fig. 4. Bodang has received Rp. 429 million during the same period, being part of the "medium amount group".

The effects of severe looting during 1997–2003 were not significant in Nala. Teak plantation forests surrounding the village had been well maintained, despite some evidence of continued illegal logging. By contrast, teak plantations surrounding Bodang were severely affected during 1997–2003, and a large amount of forestland had been denuded. In the early 2000s, teak trees were replanted, 417 which required the SFC to hire villagers, meaning that replanting was not strictly a JFM activity; 418 however, the authors understood from communicating with villagers that the villagers had considered 419 the activity to be associated with JFM. Forest recovery appeared to have occurred mostly in places 420 that were once completely denuded. The situation may thus have been similar to the case reported by 421 Prasetyo et al. (2012), in which JFM positively influenced reforestation following severe looting and 422 denudation. However, illegal logging and unofficial cultivation inside forestland remained evident. 423

	Nala	Bodang
	(n=48)	(n=43)
% of state forestland to village area	89.4	95.7
Forest area designated to the committee (ha)	2,100	1,928
The amounts of shared benefits from 2003 to 2014 (million Rp.)	2,993	429
% of households having cultivation plots (both official		
and unofficial) inside forestland to the total sample	64.6	69.7
households		
Average area of cultivation plots (both official and		
unofficial) inside forestland among the sample	0.51	0.76
households (ha)		
Average annual gross income (year 2016) among the sample households (million Rp.)	28.1	20.8
% of the gross income derived from cultivation plots		
(both official and unofficial) inside forestland among	23.7	27.4
the sample households		
Of the sample households having cultivation plots		
inside forestland, % of households whose plots are	2.1	90.0
suspected to be unofficial		

424 Table 5 Characteristics of the villages of Nala and Bodang and information from the household surveys

425

426 Table 6 presents informants' knowledge and perceptions of JFM. It was confirmed that 427 informants who knew about JFM, the uses of shared benefits, and their committee's forest patrolling 428 activities were greater than those who did not know in both villages. However, the influence of 429 geographical location was also clear; informants from the subvillages of Koli and Maliraga knew less 430 than those from the subvillages of Nguro and Semuko (the names of these subvillages are 431 pseudonyms). That situation reflects the facts that Nguro and Semuko were the major parts of the two 432 villages and that JFM activities targeted those subvillages. Some informants who knew about JFM 433 and benefit sharing explicitly told the authors, for example, that "JFM is an issue for executive

- 434 members, so ordinary villagers are not really involved." Such reports implied the domination of
- 435 decision making by executive members.
- 436

Village	Nala (n=48)		Bodang (n=43)	
0 1 11	Nguro	Koli	Semuko	Maliraga
Subvillage	(n=28)	(n=20)	(n=29)	(n=14)
	27	12	29	4
Know about JFM	(96.4%)	(60.0%)	(100.0%)	(28.6%)
Know about the uses of	28	14	24	5
shared benefits	(100.0%)	(70.0%)	(82.8%)	(35.7%)
Know about committee's	28	13	No patrolling is conducted by	
forest patrolling activities	(100.0%)	(65.0%)	committee	

Table 6 Knowledge and perceptions of JFM among the sample households

438

439 Few effects of shared benefits were identified in household-level income data. As shown in Table 440 2, most of the committees' business activities were collective ones, which may not directly contribute 441 to the livelihood of households. Businesses activities engaged included the rental of ceremonial tools, 442 microbuses, and corn shellers in Nala and the rental of corn shellers in Bodang. Profits from such 443 businesses were pooled and reinvested by the committees, and there was little evidence that ordinary 444 villagers received support for their livelihoods. As Maryudi (2011) has posited, the effects of shared 445 benefits on improved livelihoods are often not significant. In Nala, only one respondent answered that 446 he had continued cultivating temulawak (Curcuma zanthorrhiza), which can be considered to 447 represent a single direct contribution to income from the use of shared benefits.

448 Regarding the effects of shared benefits on forest protection, the study focused on the unofficial 449 occupation of forestland, which could be implicitly confirmed during surveys. In short, if a plot is 450 located in an official *tumpangsari* coupe, then that plot should be legal; otherwise, the plot is suspected 451 of being unofficial. In Nala, only one case (2.1%) of unofficial cultivation was identified from surveys 452 (Table 5). In that village, forest conditions were good, and final cuttings had continued for the past 453 several years. Opportunities for official tumpangsari were abundant, because tumpangsari contracts 454 were made at the time of final cuttings and when the replanting of teak trees commenced. However, 455 in Bodang, among the households with cultivation plots inside forestland, 90.0% were suspected to be 456 cultivating unofficial plots on such lands (Table 5)—that is, plots having nothing to do with official 457 tumpangsari or that had exceeded the three-year tumpangsari contract period. In terms of forest 458 management from the SFC's viewpoint, the situation in Bodang was volatile.

Peasants' dependence on opportunities for cultivating forestland, either officially or unofficially, was high (Table 5). Percentages of gross income derived from cultivation plots inside forestland represented 23.7% and 27.4% in Nala and Bodang, respectively. In addition, performing a chi-square test, sample households who do not own agricultural fields were statistically more likely to have cultivation plots inside forestland (p-value=0.041).

464 To sum up the matter of forest protection in general, without opportunities for tumpangsari, 465 villagers are very likely to be engaged in the unofficial occupation of forestland. If there are enough 466 opportunities for tumpangsari, as in Nala, then villagers' needs for forestland plots can be 467 accommodated and their use of forestland can be legal; if not, as in Bodang, then peasants are daring 468 to pursue unofficial cultivation. Such phenomena are natural, for cultivation, whether official or 469 unofficial, in state forestland has been an important safety net for peasants in remote areas of Java 470 (Inoue et al. 2003), where available land is scarce due to high population density and the high 471 percentage of state forests (Peluso 1992). Moreover, benefit sharing is not functioning as a meaningful 472 instrument to replace forest cultivation. If a sort of livelihood could be ensured by making use of 473 money from shared benefits, then peasant households may prefer that livelihood to unofficial 474 forestland cultivation. However, such a situation has not been realized by any means. It is evident that 475 JFM and its benefit-sharing mechanism have never been effective in addressing peasant pressure on 476 forestland, although they might have had some positive influence on the implementation of 477 reforestation from severe looting and denudation in the early 2000s.

478

## 479 **Discussion**

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481 None of the 3Es—equity, effectiveness, and efficiency—of benefit sharing under JFM at the study 482 site had been fully realized. Although the development of village infrastructure might have contributed 483 to a village's prosperity to some extent, few successes in business activities were confirmed, 484 particularly in rich committees that had invested large amounts of money from shared benefits. Even 485 in committees with successful business activities, profits from such activities were generally pooled 486 and reinvested by the committees, and ordinary villagers had not enjoyed profit allocation to improve 487 their livelihoods. The authors do not deny the significance of allocation for social purposes, as such 488 support may create positive attitudes of villagers. However, the allocation for social purposes observed 489 might represent village's "wants", rather than "needs", which have little connection with both forest 490 management and livelihoods. In terms of forest protection, changes in systems and physical intensity 491 had been few, except for the addition of some watchmen in areas associated with rich committees.

492 Furthermore, the household surveys revealed that in Bodang, the cultivation of unofficial forestland 493 had not been halted. Official structures affording greater benefit flows for the village elite than 494 ordinary villagers were confirmed. Ordinary villagers' awareness of JFM and its benefit sharing was 495 not high. Thus, JFM and its benefit-sharing arrangements had not been effective or equitable in terms 496 of the economy (ineffective investment, a distribution policy prioritizing villages' wants, and a lack of 497 attempts to improve general farmers' livelihoods and pro-poor arrangements); the ecology (little 498 change in forest protection systems and continuing illegal logging and unofficial forestland 499 cultivation); or governance (official elite capture and a lack of downward accountability) (Fig. 6).



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In the institutions of JFM, the executive members of committees are at the core, and they decide, among other things, the use of shared benefits (Fig. 6). If they have sufficient capacity and good accountability, then JFM presents a variety of positive prospects; however, if they lack such capacity and accountability, then activities will not be productive enough. Many of the study's cases fall into the latter category, a finding largely in line with the results of previous studies on JFM (Maryudi 2011; Shiga et al. 2012). The finding can also be regarded as a typical situation in terms of elite capture in forest governance (e.g., Ribot et al. 2010; Persha and Andersson 2014; Torpey-Saboe et al. 2015). 510 After all, because elite or influential people are likely to occupy official positions on newly created 511 committees, they are likely to have more sway in deciding rules and benefit flows in favor of elite or 512 influential people such as themselves.

513 However, the executive members of committees are not the only ones responsible for such results. 514 Overall, appropriate arrangements by the SFC, as the initiator of the joint forest management initiative, 515 for the effective and equitable implementation of benefit sharing were not in place. The SFC had not 516 developed a system of feedback in order to understand local realities and had not arranged facilitation 517 or capacity-development systems so that shared benefits would be used effectively. Foresters had been 518 instructed to focus on their conventional tasks, and organizational facilitation systems were not 519 sufficiently developed. Moreover, attempts at cooperation with external stakeholders, including NGOs 520 that work with rural development issues, were few. In the situation at the time of the study, the 521 responsibilities of the SFC were merely to calculate shared benefits and provide money to committees. 522 As a result, linkages between the incentive and good forest management practices were weak. At 523 present, forestry benefit sharing initiated by the SFC for joint forest management is a sort of gift to the 524 village elite, and such a laissez-faire attitude held by the administrative body is problematic. This 525 viewpoint, that room for elite capture can be created under the frameworks of joint forest management 526 due to a lack of proper engagement and the monitoring of forest administration, marks an important 527 contribution to the previous literature.

528 In the context of Java, three factors can be identified as underlying such a laissez-faire 529 implementation: one technical, one psychological, and one political. The technical factor is a lack of 530 human resources at the SFC. The number of personnel is limited, and hence there might be little leeway 531 to add village development or facilitation activities to frontline foresters' tasks. The psychological 532 factor is a sense to simply follow conventional tasks among forest officials. Forest officials may claim 533 that they have been trained to manage forests, not to contribute to village development and prosperity. 534 The administrative system of the SFC had not been oriented to allow for JFM. This factor would reflect 535 the historical legacy that the SFC was the sole decision maker on forest management, and they 536 managed forest conflicts with strategies of repression (Peluso 1992). Lastly, the political factor is a 537 hesitation among forest officials to intervene in village issues. As confirmed in the study's results, 538 forest officials were likely to consider benefit sharing to be a matter of the village, thereby implying 539 that they are not agents with any say about the use of benefits. Such hesitation might reflect the 540 increasing voice of locals amid the decreasing authority of the SFC after 1997. Forest officials might 541 have perceived that they should not advise villagers on the uses of shared benefits. Even when the 542 effectiveness and equity of the uses are doubtful, they have just left them untouched and unresolved.

543 Scrutinizing the contextual information of local political settings can thus explain the observed 544 realities of stakeholder relations.

545 Apart from the issue of the work of executive members of JFM committees and their relationship 546 with the SFC, another important implication from the results is the dubiousness of whether shared 547 benefits could have replaced existing unofficial cultivation inside forestland, even if shared benefits 548 had been used for direct livelihood improvement. The household surveys showed that local peasants' 549 dependence on and demand for forestland was high, which suggests that benefit sharing alone may 550 not be an adequate measure for solving tenurial conflict in contemporary Java. Moreover, because 551 places with higher local pressure on forestland and greater conflict between peasants and the SFC are 552 likely to have forests with worse conditions, the amounts of shared benefits are likely to be smaller, 553 which means lesser incentives for local forest protection.

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## **Conclusions and Policy Implications**

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557 Focusing on a major teak plantation area, this paper has revealed the realities behind forestry benefit 558 sharing under JFM in the context of stakeholder relations in contemporary rural forestry areas of Java. 559 Although the payments of shared benefits had some positive aspects, they were basically not 560 functioning as an effective, efficient, and equitable policy instrument, and had a consequence of being 561 a gift to the village elite. The findings of the study suggest that a laissez-faire policy of forest 562 administration under the frameworks of joint forest management can create room for elite capture as 563 well as ineffective conservation and livelihood outcomes and should thus be avoided. Appropriate and 564 supportive facilitation or collaboration from the outside to develop the capacity and downward 565 accountability of village-level decision makers is needed. These points will be increasingly important 566 in the context of REDD+, where achieving the 3Es, particularly equity, is regarded as a significant 567 challenge (e.g., Pham et al. 2013; Andersson et al. 2018).

568 To make benefit sharing under JFM more effective, efficient, and equitable, the following 569 improvements should be considered. First, transforming the mentality and working system of forest 570 officials inside the SFC is important for substantive and meaningful joint forest management processes. 571 Training for foresters could be a first step to that end, although that method alone will not succeed if 572 the working environment and the organizational values of the SFC remain unchanged (Fleischman 573 2014). Political commitment from top officials is pivotal to that change. Second, cooperation with 574 external agencies such as NGOs or agricultural departments may produce better outcomes (Persha and 575 Andersson 2014). For such collaboration to occur, however, it is important to remove the

576 psychological barrier of forest officials toward cooperating with external agencies. Political 577 commitment from top officials is thus important on that point as well. Third, JFM committees should 578 be consolidated or integrated into existing, smoothly functioning village organizations, if any, with 579 greater inclusion of non-elites. Such suggestions are applicable to the design and implementation of 580 REDD+ outside Java as well.

581

582 Acknowledgements This study was financially supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers 583 JP15KT0127, JP16K16240, and JP18K18235. The field research was conducted with foreign research 584 permits from the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education in Indonesia. The authors 585 appreciate Prof. Lilik B. Prasetyo at Bogor Agricultural University for being the research counterpart 586 as well as staff members of the Randublatung Forest District and village respondents for cooperating 587 with the research. The data, analysis, and opinions presented in this paper are the sole responsibility 588 of the authors.

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