Determinant Factors of Successful Mangrove Local Governance Initiatives:

Case of Karangsong Village, Indramayu, Indonesia

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Indramayu is a district in West Java whose coastal area has been severly experiencing coastal abrasion. This is caused mainly by mangrove forest conversion into brackishwater-pond that had massively happened between 1983-2008. The rate of abrasion is between 2 - 5 meter per year. This has threatened residential and brackishwater-pond area. The brackishwater–pond damage has been a sever threat for the economy of coastal communities of Indramayu strongly depended on fishery sector. One of the most serious abrasion in Indramayu had happened in Karangsong Village. In this village, between 1983 – 2008 at least 127 hectare of mangrove has been cleared. Facing this horrible situation, some of environmentally awared people took an initiative to replant the damaged mangrove forest areas. Given this work is too hard to do invidually, in 2008 they built a group named is “Pantai Lestari Group”. Its spirit and vision is “managing the coast for a life”; and “to creat a green, clean, sustainable and well managged coastal aeas that can generate benefits for the people welfare”. Today, the group has sucessfully governed aproximately 30 hectars of mangrove forest. The area has become an attractive tourist destinations a potential fishing and nursery ground for coastal fishes. The group has thought people on how to reforestrate the damaged coastal areas and realize regarding the importance of sustainable common resources for sustainable public interest. The government in all level has appreciated this success; by issuing a decree Village Government of Karangsong number 02/2009 on Management of Karangsong Mangrove Protection area; Bupati Decree number 522.1/Kep.189-A-Dishutbun/2013; and Number 523.05/Kep.151-A/Diskanla/2014 concerning the Establishment of Karangsong Village as Mangrove Center; and Mangrove Restoration and Lesson Learn Center. The support has also come from the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries Affairs. Recently, Karangsong village has been a national model for a successful local initiative for restorating the damaged mangrove areas. The interesting things to explore are what the determinant factors of the success. So, the research focus on this matter. In conducting this reserache, we focuse on actor and stakeholder characteristics, property rights, and governance development process. In collecting data, we used some apporoaches such as direct observations, interviews, literature survey and focused group discussions. The analysis is done qualitatively using institutional framework analysis, actor mapping, actor’s perception polarisasion and property right analysis.

Keywords: mangrove, local initiative, local governance, common resources, public policies