



People's Forest Management on the Island of Java: How have changes occurred after the Decentralization Era?

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Abstract:

This research analyses the extent and the causal pathways to and along which the practices of People's Forest management in Java have undergone changes in the course of and after the decentralization era. The research design builds on extensive review of documents and two major phases of fieldwork in two selected districts in Central Java. Expert interviews were used to explore changes in the four dimensions of Policy Arrangement Approach (actors, rules, power and discourses) to shed light on the impacts of decentralization.

BACKGROUND

- Forest management for timber production in Java Island is broadly divided into **state-owned forest management** and **People's Forest management** (privately-owned forests).
- About **70% of forests in Java are state-owned** have hence been exclusively managed for more than 30 years by **The State Forest Company (SFC)**
- Since SFC was the only existing forest-related institution located at district level, for a long period of time **SFC also has held power to legitimize timber harvested from People's Forests**.
- This situation **has changed due to Indonesia's national decentralization policy** as introduced in 2000 along with the reformation era in Indonesia.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ✓ What kind of changes actually happened in the **practices of managing People's Forest in Java?**
- ✓ How have the **decentralization policy and movement** contributed to these changes?

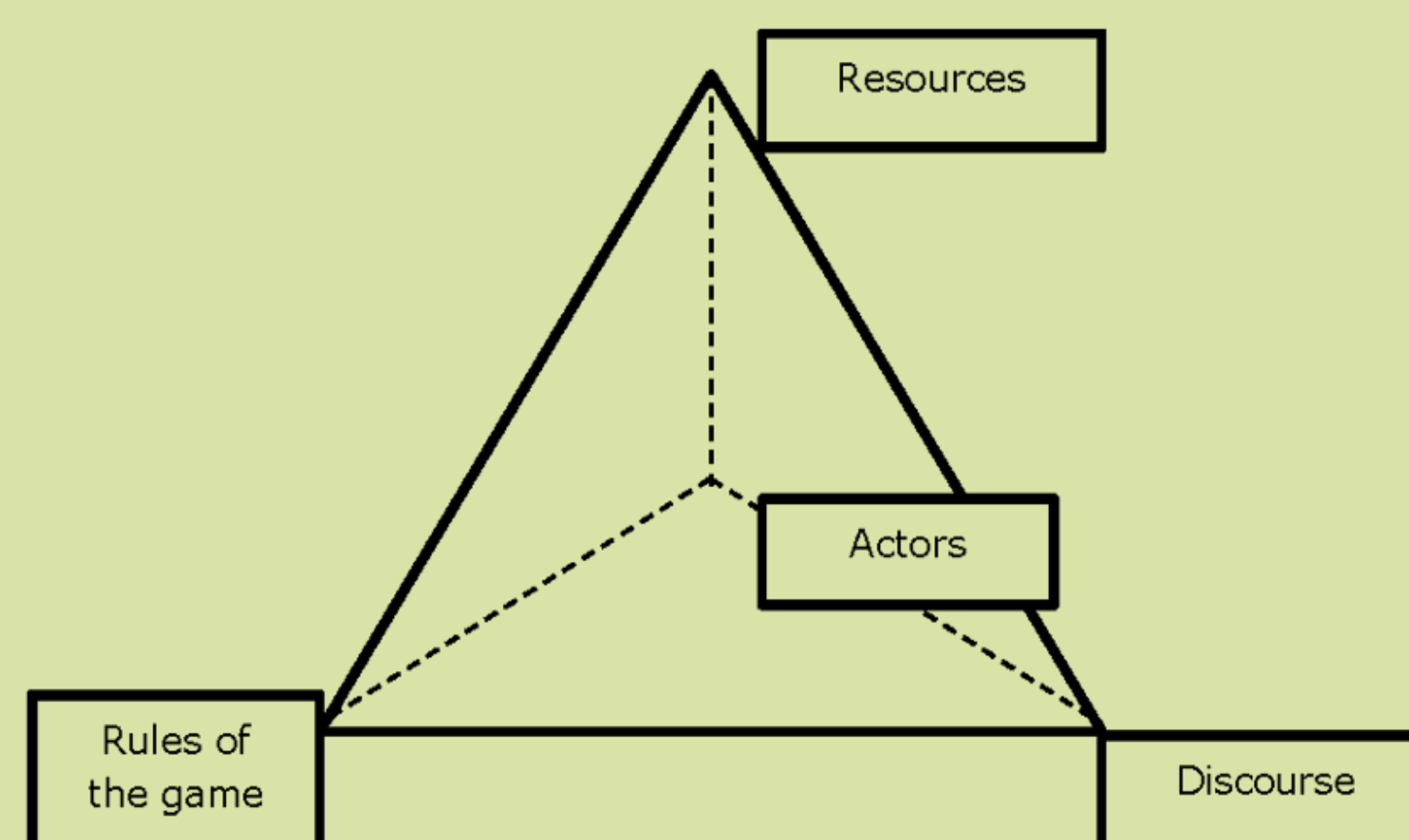
RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODS

- Case Studies**
 - ✓ Kendal and Blora District, Central Java Province, Indonesia
- Desk Work**
 - ✓ Statistics, Reports, News, Policies & Regulations
- Field Work (2 Stages)**
 - ✓ Personal Expert Interview
 - ✓ Purposive and Snowball Sampling
 - ✓ Unpublished Local Materials
- Qualitative Analysis**
 - ✓ Content Analysis
 - ✓ MAX QDA Analytical Software

Contextual Factor

- Biophysical (C1)
- Historical (C2)
- Forest Tenurial (C3)
- Social Economy (C4)
- Policy development (C5)

Analytical Framework: Policy Arrangement Approach (PAA)

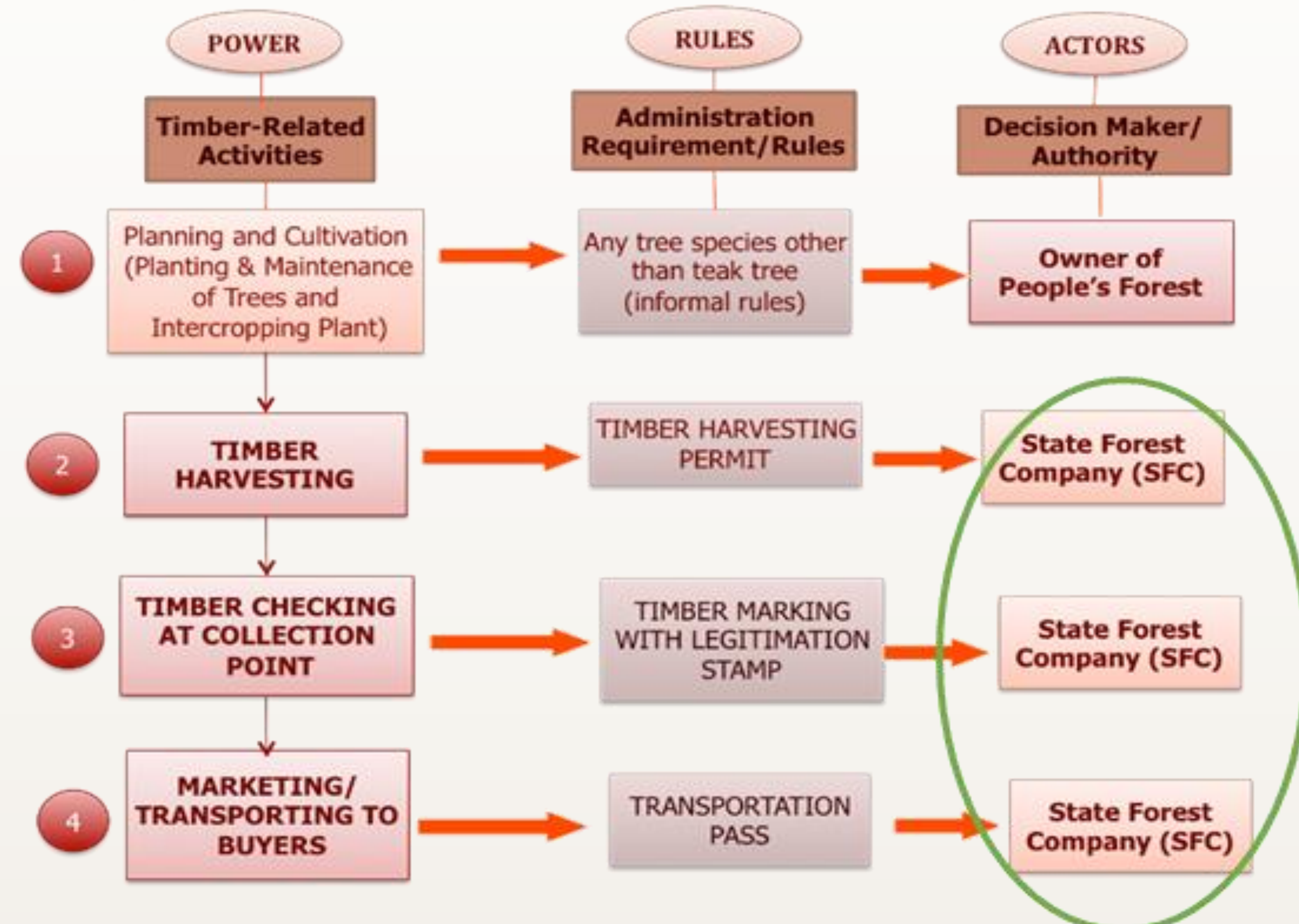


GENERAL CONTEXT OF STUDY AREA

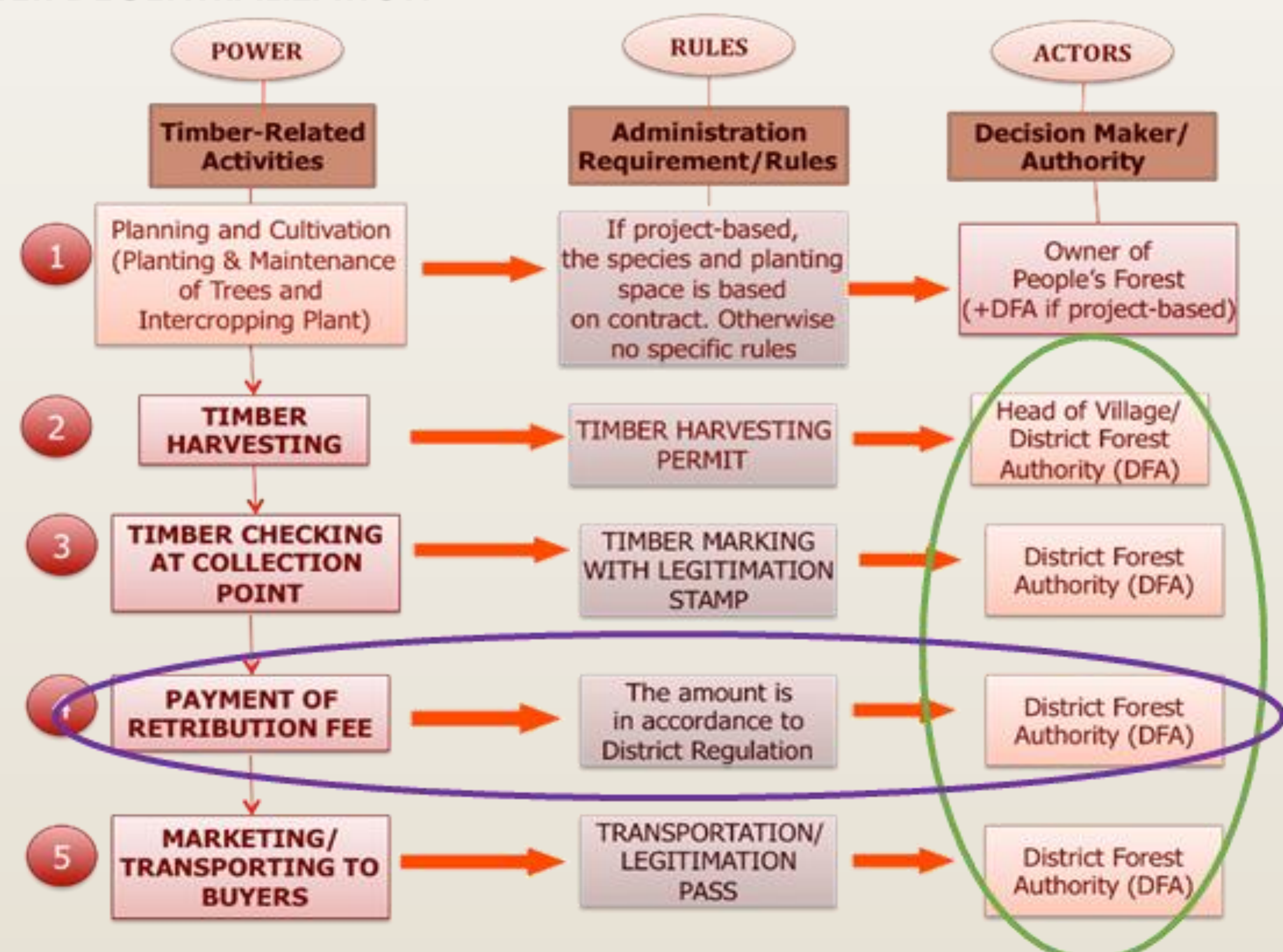
- Java Island:** high population density (58% of country population)
- Little forest resources are left; the share of **forested area in Java is only 14%** while in the rest of Indonesia it the share of forest is 35-81%.
- more than 6000 villages with 20 million **forest-dependent people**
- Long history and strong legacy of **centralistic state control** as regards forest resources and forest management
- Conflicts** over forest use between **stakeholders** (state vs. non-state actors)

RESULTS: Authority with respect to timber production

BEFORE DECENTRALIZATION



AFTER DECENTRALIZATION



CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ **Changes** in People's Forest Management can be well-explained by applying the analytical dimensions of Policy Arrangement Approach (PAA)
- ❖ New **Formal Rules** (the decentralization law) brought about the establishment of a new actor (the **District Forest Authority**)
- ❖ Contribution of **Decentralization Policy & movement**:
 - **Formally**: → by providing a legal basis for the recognition and acknowledgement of **district forest authority's role and power**
 - **Informally**: → by introducing, triggering, mainstreaming and highlighting the spirit of decentralization in terms of "sharing, equality, empowerment at local level, participation, and accountability"
 - **Changing the constellation of actors, rules and powers** in the management of People's Forest
 - **Affecting discourses** and thus changing the ways actors frame the People's Forest and bringing about an increased importance of People's Forest in Java Island

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