



Community Participation in the Village Forest Management Scheme in Oma village, Haruku Island District, Central Maluku Regency

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ABSTRACT

Keywords:
Forest Management Participation; The Land of Oma; Village Forest

This research aims to look at the forms of community participation in Village Forest management in Oma village, Pulau Haruku District, Central Maluku Regency, the level of community participation in Village Forest management in Oma village, Pulau Haruku District, Central Maluku Regency, and to find out the factors that influence community participation in Village Forest Management in Oma village, Haruku Island District, Central Maluku Regency. The methods used in this research were qualitative and quantitative descriptive methods. The sample determination method uses purposive sampling or purposive sampling techniques. The data collection methods used in this research are observation, interviews, and literature study. Data analysis includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The level of community participation was analyzed using Likert scoring. Forms of community participation in the village forest program in Oma village, Haruku Island District, include thought, energy, and social involvement. The level of community participation in village forest management in Oma village in 4 stages of village forest management: the planning stage, namely, implementation, program evaluation, and utilization of results. The driving factor is synergy between stakeholders (central and regional government), the private sector, village government, and the community, and inhibiting factors include low human resources (HR). The level of community participation in village forest management in Oma village in the four stages of village forest management is included in the medium category. The driving factor in managing the Oma village forest is the synergy of stakeholders. While the inhibiting factor is the low quality of human resources (HR) in village communities.

INTRODUCTION

Social Forestry is an initiative that aims to empower local communities by increasing their capacity and independence in utilizing forest resources optimally and fairly through access to forest management (Adnan *et al.*, 2015). This program is expected to accommodate the aspirations of local communities in sustainable forest management, while improving their welfare. In its implementation, a participatory (bottom-up) approach is preferred over a top-

down one so local community can play an active role in the decision-making process. The optimal social forestry development strategy involves providing opportunities for communities to manage forests with incentives that encourage efficiency, business sustainability, and forest sustainability without having to divide or hand over management of forest areas to economic actors (Pambudi, 2023).

The initial evaluation of the impact of Social Forestry (PS) in Maluku and Papua provides valuable lessons for subsequent program implementation. Multi-stakeholder collaboration, especially locally, is critical in helping communities increase income while preserving forests. BPSKL Maluku Papua, as the spearhead of the PS program, is responsible for product results and forest sustainability, focusing on community empowerment for program sustainability. However, the PS program is open to challenges and debates regarding the ideal property rights arrangement in the sustainable use of forest resources. Whether and how PS can provide the desired tenure security while improving livelihoods and forest conservation remains an unresolved debate. With their unique histories of forest land tenure, the Maluku and Papua regions have socio-cultural characteristics different from those of the western regions of Indonesia, adding to the complexity of PS implementation.

Development principles that focus on community empowerment emphasize their active role as the main driver in the development process. This aligns with the community forest management model, which gives communities direct responsibility for managing forests at the site level, a concept known as participation. Community forest is a forest management system that aims to improve the welfare of communities in and around forest areas while maintaining the sustainability of forest functions (Witno *et al.*, 2020). Witno *et al.* (2020) emphasize that communities receive both development benefits and active actors involved in all stages, from planning to program evaluation. Community participation is crucial in sustainable forest management, especially in sustainable development, which focuses on community empowerment, independence, and social justice. Community involvement in forest management requires competent and knowledgeable extension workers. Active community involvement, both in urban and rural areas, significantly impacts the success of development programs in their environment. As emphasized by Wowiling *et al.* (2022), community participation is a critical factor in determining the success of a program, especially those related to community development itself. Therefore, community involvement in every stage of planning and implementing development programs is crucial. One example of the application of meaningful community participation is in Village Forest management, where the community's active role can ensure the sustainability and optimal benefits of forest resources for local communities.

Village Forest (VF) is a state forest located in the village administrative area, managed by the village, and used to improve the welfare of village communities. This definition is contained

in the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation Number 83 of 2016 concerning Social Forestry. The HD concept first appeared in Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry. Article 5, paragraph 1 of this law explains that state forests managed by villages and used for village welfare are called village forests. Based on this definition, three key elements characterize HD: its status as a state forest, its management by the village, and its aim to improve the welfare of village communities. Haruku Island, with its natural wealth, holds great potential to enhance the welfare of its residents. Oma village, one of the regions on this island, has advantages in the plantation, fisheries, and tourism sectors. However, the development of these sectors requires adequate supporting infrastructure. The active participation of local communities in developing their regions is key to encouraging economic growth (Leuhery & Walsen, 2022).

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry has initiated the Social Forestry Program (SFP), which gives communities the legal right to use forests for their welfare. One form of PS is participatory village forest management by communities with rights to the forests where they live. For example, based on the Decree of the Minister of Environment and Forestry No. 4814/MENLHK PSKL/PKPS/PSL.0/5/2019, the community of Oma State was granted the right to manage the Village Forest covering an area of 860.61 Ha in the Protected Forest area. However, the village forest management in Oma faces several obstacles, such as a lack of knowledge and skills, ineffective communication between related parties, limited funds, and a lack of community empowerment. This has an impact on the low level of community welfare. Village Forest management's success in Oma village depends on the active participation of local communities. Therefore, this research analyzes community participation in Village Forest management in Oma village, Haruku Island District, Central Maluku Regency.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Location

The research was conducted in the Oma area of Haruku Island District from August to September 2023.

Research Objects and Tools

The object of this research was based on members of the Social Forestry Group in Oma village. The tools used for this research are writing tools, a camera, a voice recorder, a questionnaire, and laptops with the SPSS software.

Data collection techniques

This research uses a combined approach, namely descriptive qualitative and quantitative. The descriptive approach describes phenomena occurring while the research is taking place. In contrast, quantitative descriptive analysis uses statistical calculations to test

hypotheses and measure the phenomenon, often through surveys, observations, or interviews. On the other hand, qualitative descriptive analysis focuses on collecting, processing, analyzing, and presenting data narratively.

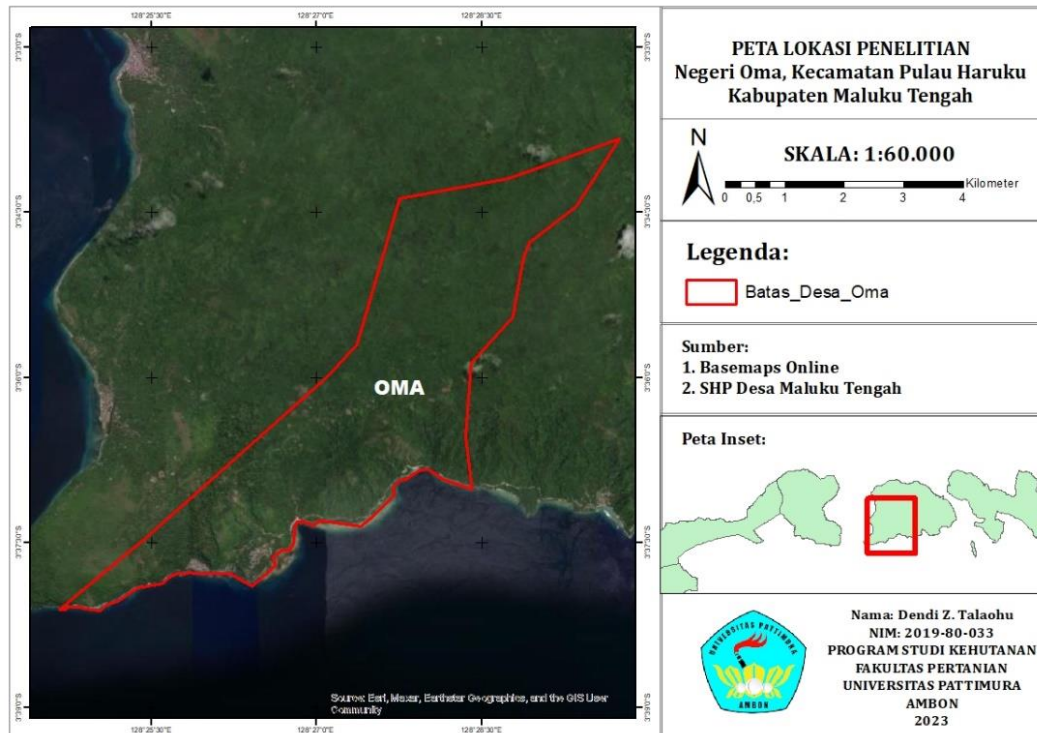


Figure 1. Map of the Research Location

Primary data, obtained directly through field research, aims to answer research questions about the form, level, and factors influencing community participation in Village Forest management. This data also includes information about the socio-economic conditions of the community, including population, age, gender, livelihood, and education level.

Secondary data functions as a complement to primary data. In this research, secondary data includes information and literature relevant to the research topic, such as the general condition of the location (location of the area, area size, and physical condition of the environment) and the results of previous research regarding community participation in Village Forest management.

Sample Determination Technique

The sample in this study was carefully selected to reflect the larger population, and their responses will form the basis of our analysis. We use a purposive sampling method, selecting samples based on relevant criteria. The specific criteria used in this research are:

1. Traditional leaders who understand the situation and environmental conditions and are actively involved in village forest management in Oma village, such as educational leaders, religious leaders, and heads of village forest management groups.

2. State officials who know about Village Forest management in Oma village, such as the State King, Oma State Secretary, and traditional officials.
3. Village Forest Decree No SK 4814/MENLHK-PSKL/PKPS/PSL.0/5/2019 has determined that the members of a village forest group total 15 people, as well as communities participating in Village Forest management in Oma village.

According to the established criteria, the critical informants selected had an in-depth understanding and could provide crucial information related to this research. The key informants consisted of the country's king, traditional heads, community leaders, hamlet heads, and village officials, with five people. Apart from key informants, this research also involved 30 samples or research objects comprising 15 Village Forest management group members and ten communities who participated in Village Forest management in Oma village.

Data Collection Techniques

Data was collected by:

1. Observation

The author made direct observations in the field to gather information related to geographical conditions and a description of the research location.

2. Interview

Interviews were conducted using a questionnaire containing questions about the objectives of this research. Interviews were conducted with members of the Village Forest group and communities outside the Village Forest group, and key informant interviews were conducted with the Oma Village Government.

3. Literature study

A literature study is a secondary data collection method that supports primary data obtained in the field. It can be carried out by recording existing documents in the village, documents in the village forest group, and from related agencies, including the Maluku Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Center, the Forestry Service, and others.

Data analysis

This research adopts a descriptive analysis approach to reveal the condition of the research object based on established criteria, thereby producing a factual picture of the situation at the research location. Sugiyono (2014, in Rusli & Sani, 2022) explains that descriptive analysis aims to understand singular and plural independent variables without comparing or connecting them with other variables. In the context of this research, descriptive analysis is applied to identify forms of community participation and the factors that influence them. Meanwhile, a qualitative study was used to measure community participation, involving three stages, as explained by Miles & Huberman (1992, in Rijali, 2018).

Data Reduction

Miles & Huberman (1992, in Rijali, 2018) began qualitative data analysis with a data simplification process called data reduction. In this stage, raw data from interviews, field observations, and other sources are filtered based on their level of importance. Data deemed irrelevant to the research objectives will be removed, leaving essential data that is easier to manage and analyze. Thus, the reduced data becomes a more concise and focused representation of the overall data, facilitating further data processing to produce comprehensive information and answer research questions.

Data Presentation

Data processed and simplified in the previous stage is then displayed in various visual formats, such as graphs, diagrams, or pictograms, to make it easier to understand and communicate. The goal is to present information that is clear and easily accessible to readers. Presenting data is important in qualitative data analysis; it displays data in a structured, systematic, and organized manner so that raw data can be transformed into meaningful information. Data analysis and presentation were carried out in this research using SPSS software.

Drawing Conclusions

After the qualitative data has been grouped and organized, the next step is synthesizing the information into comprehensive conclusions. These conclusions, which reflect key patterns and findings in the data (such as community participation and the factors that influence it), are then presented as key information in the concluding section of the research report. Simplifying and compiling varied data, including through community involvement, is an important prerequisite before the concluding process can be carried out.

Quantitative analysis will be used to measure the level of community participation. Questionnaire data will be analyzed using Likert Scoring to determine the frequency distribution before being presented.

The Likert scale, as explained by Sugiyono (2014, in Rusli & Sani, 2022) and quoted in Prasetyo (2017), is a tool for measuring the attitudes or views of individuals and groups toward a social phenomenon. In this scale, each answer choice is given a certain score. Respondents are then asked to choose the answer that best suits the conditions they experienced or observed, whether they support (positive) or do not support (negative) the statement given.

1. This study uses a 1 to 3 rating scale, with three being the highest and one being the lowest for each answer.
2. Determining the answer choice between the two scales is adjusted to the number of options available for both the question and answer scales.

Table 1. Methods for measuring community participation in village forest programs

No.	Cubpic Participation	Amount he asked	Respondent's Answer			Total Community Value (30 Respondents)	Class Interval	Level of Participation Public	
			Criteria	Value	Grade			Class Size	
1.	Planning	4	Inactive	1	$(30 \times 4 \times 1)$ s/d 120 s/d 360	$(360-120)/3$ = 80	Low	120 – 200	
			Active	2			Medium	201 - 281	
			Very Active	3			High	282 – 360	
2.	Implementation	5	Inactive	1	$(30 \times 5 \times 1)$ s/d 150 s/d 450	$(450-150)/3$ = 100	Low	150 – 250	
			Active	2			Medium	251 - 350	
			Very Active	3			High	351 – 450	
3.	Evaluation	7	Inactive	1	$(30 \times 7 \times 1)$ s/d 210 s/d 630	$(630-210)/3$ = 140	Low	210 – 350	
			Active	2			Medium	351 – 490	
			Very Active	3			High	491 – 630	
4.	Utilization of results	8	Inactive	1	$(30 \times 8 \times 1)$ s/d 240 s/d 720	$(720-240)/3$ = 160	Low	240 – 400	
			Active	2			Medium	401 – 560	
			Very Active	3			High	561 – 720	

3. This question scale uses a rating of 3 for the answer "Very Active," 2 for "Active," and 1 for "Not Active."

The following is a calculation to obtain an interval class Sugiyono (2014, in Rusli & Sani, 2022) to determine the level of community participation in village forest management in Negeri Oma:

$$\text{Interval Class} = \frac{\text{maximum value} - \text{minimum value}}{\text{the number of classifications (classes)}}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

Research respondents included all members of farmer groups and communities involved in the Oma village forest program and five key informants who collaborated with BPSKL Maluku-Papua Province. Table 2 presents the characteristics of respondents based on age, gender, education, employment, income, and number of family dependents.

Table 2. Recapitulation of respondent characteristics

Parameter	Category	Frequency	Percent
Age (Year)	< 25 Year	2	6.7
	26-49 Year	15	50.0
	> 50 Year	13	43.3
	Total	30	100.0
Gender	Male	25	83.3
	Female	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0
Education	Primary Education (Elementary and Junior High School)	10	33.3
	Secondary Education (High School Equivalent)	18	60.0
	Diploma/Undergraduate/Postgraduate Education	2	6.7
	Total	30	100.0
Jobs	Informal Work (Farmer/Fisherman/Builder/Labourer)	27	90.0
	Private Employment (Private employees)	3	10.0
	State Civil Apparatus (SCA/ARMY/POLICE)	0	0
	Total	30	100.0
Income	< 1.000.000 per month	28	93.3
	1.000.000 to 2.000.000	1	3.3
	> 2.000.000	1	3.3
	Total	30	100.0
Family Dependents	>5 people	10	33.3
	3-5 people	15	50.0
	<3 people	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0

Source: Primary data processing, 2023

The characteristics of respondents based on age-related to participation in the village forest program are categorized into three general categories, namely the characteristics of respondents according to age, dominated by the age category between 26-49 years at 50.0%, which is considered the peak productive age, so they have sufficient knowledge and experience in this context. Participation in the village forest program, followed by the age category > 50 years at 43.3% and the age category < 25 years at 6.7%.

Respondent characteristics based on gender were 83.3% male and 16.7% female, respectively. Few female respondents are members of farmer groups and participate less in village forest programs. The dominant participation of men shows that ideas and active activities in the village forest program interest men because they have a long period of work and a lot of interior work in the forests of Oma village. Maulana (2018) highlighted that the role of women in the agricultural sector in rural areas, although significant, has not been balanced by their involvement in strategic decision-making processes such as planning and resource management. In this case, male dominance is still an obstacle to empowering women in the agricultural sector.

An individual's level of education can determine the community's ability to understand information about village forest programs, following all stages of the village forest program as a whole. The characteristics of respondents based on respondents' education are dominated by secondary education (high school or equivalent) at 60.0%, followed by basic education (elementary school and junior high school equivalent) at 33.3% and higher education (Diploma/Bachelor's degree) at the remaining 6.7%. Individuals with a higher level of education tend to have better knowledge and awareness about village forest programs and their benefits for improving the economic and social community as well as ecological sustainability or forest ecosystems. In implementing the village forest program, the community can contribute to the planning, implementation, evaluation, and utilization of the results.

This type of work can support the village forest program and its implementation in Oma village because the skills of the community (farmer groups) in village forest programs can help the social, economic, and ecological aspects of forests in Oma village. According to Pawestri & Mukhtali (2019), there is a connection between the type of work or people's livelihood and their form of participation in social activities. These findings indicate that a person's work can influence social engagement. For example, work on an agricultural and livestock basis supports the implementation of village forest programs because their experience and skills will facilitate the planning, implementation, and harvesting of forest products from village forest programs. Most respondents (90%) work in the informal sector, such as farmers, fishermen, builders, and laborers, while the remainder (10%) are self-employed. No respondents worked as State Civil Apparatus (SCA) in the village forest program in Oma village, Pulau Haruku District.

Community income level strongly correlates with community participation in village forest programs. Community participation in the village forest program is from communities with relatively low incomes. The target of the village forest program is to encourage communities to increase their income. The characteristics of respondents based on income level were dominated by income < Rp. 1,000,000 per month, followed by income between Rp. 1,000,000,- to Rp. Two million per month, and an income of more than Rp. 2,000,000,- per month at 3.3% each.

The majority of respondents (50.0%) had 3-5 dependents, followed by more than five dependents (33.3%) and less than three dependents (16.7%). The number of dependents influences respondents' participation in the village forest program. Respondents with many dependents may face difficulties meeting family needs, so their participation in village forest programs is affected. The greater the number of family dependents, the greater the impact on the involvement in this program.

Forms of Community Participation in Village Forest Management

The forestry sector in Oma is one of the important sectors that play a role in forest management. Village forests in Oma village include the working areas of KPH Ambon and the Lease Islands. The existence of KPH with the Village Forest program is expected to improve the welfare of communities around forest areas. The KPH and the PSKL Center for the Maluku Papua Region also play an important role in preserving forests in Oma. Programs from government agencies, especially in the forestry sector, aim to improve community welfare and preserve forest areas. In essence, these programs establish cooperation between forestry agencies and the community. Most of the forests managed by KPH and Balai PSKL can be managed using village forest management programs by selecting types of forest plants with high economic value to realize community welfare and ensure forest sustainability. In this way, KPH and Balai PSKL involve the community directly in village forest management with the aim that the community has a direct role and responsibility in managing village forests for sustainable and sustainable forests. This village forest management policy directly involving the community is expected to positively impact the community's economy and ensure forest sustainability in Oma village, Haruku Island District, Central Maluku Regency.

Based on the results of observations at the research location, it is known that the more dominant form of participation found in the Oma village forest is involvement in thoughts, energy, and social participation. Based on the results of observations carried out by question and answer through a questionnaire, it can be concluded that the people of Oma village participate more in the three forms of participation that have been mentioned. Of the three forms of participation, involvement in energy is more dominant than the other two. Direct community involvement in village forest management (VF) is the focus of attention in this research. Taluke *et al.* (2018) explained that active community participation, including the

contribution of labor, reflects a sense of responsibility and support for sustainable forest management and development.

Participation in the Fruit of the Mind

Thought participation is the involvement or participation of the community in conveying ideas, notions, or thoughts in an activity, discussion, or meeting. Based on the results of observations, the Oma village forest community, in this case, gave a positive response to the existence of the Oma village forest program, which can be seen by the participation of the Oma village community in the form of participation, ideas conveyed through ideas, opinions or input related to the management of village forest areas, which is in Oma's country. Based on this explanation, it can be concluded that the Oma village forest community is involved in conveying ideas for determining work plots during the activity planning stage, constructive input or suggestions based on previous village forest management; this can be seen during meetings or discussions related to program planning, or evaluation of the program carried out. Arzaq & Tauran (2015) stated that active community participation in conferences and seminars about VF management could facilitate problem-solving because the forum becomes a forum for obtaining various inputs and feedback.

Power Participation

Labor participation is community involvement in providing donations in the form of labor. In this case, the Oma village forest community contributed to the program in ways other than ideas, namely in the form of energy for the smooth running of the program. Participation in the form of labor provided by the community can be said to support the smooth implementation of the program without looking at the rewards such as money. Taluke *et al.* (2018) stated that forms of labor participation will grow significantly if the community has high awareness. The participation of the people of Oma village in the form of this workforce is demonstrated during the implementation of programs that have been planned or prepared previously, such as clearing village forest land, procuring seeds, planting saplings provided by the PSKL Center or the Forestry Service, security, harvesting activities and so on in the form of donations.

Social Participation

According to Arzaq & Tauran (2015), social participation can be interpreted as individual involvement in community activities, such as cooperation or mutual assistance, driven by social interaction with fellow community members. Oma village still has strong cultural traditions and local wisdom found in the town, so there is no doubt that the relationships between communities are formed. In Oma, quite a few people know each other, and even quite a few still have close ties of brotherhood or kinship. This can be one factor that makes the village forest communities in Oma village able to participate in social forms. The social relations built

between communities are still quite close at the research location. In this case, the people of Oma also show their participation in social participation, which can be seen in their cooperation. For example, the participation of young people who volunteer to help in one of the programs, namely planting clove saplings, one of the Oma State Village Forest programs, allows social relations between communities to be excellent and close.

Level of Community Participation in Oma Village Forest Management

POAC Principles (planning, organizing, actuating, controlling) are commonly used in management. George R. Terry describes these four functions as key elements in effectively carrying out management activities and community participation in the village forest program in Oma village, which includes these four important stages. The following describes the four important stages in the village forest program in Oma village, Haruku Island District.

Level of Community Participation in the Planning Stage of the Village Forest Program

The results of the assessment of community participation in the planning stages of the village forest program include four important indicators, namely involvement in membership of village forest-assisted farmer groups initiated by the Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Center for the Maluku Papua Region, participation in work plot determination activities, participation in village forest land clearing activities, and convey ideas or input during previous village forest management.

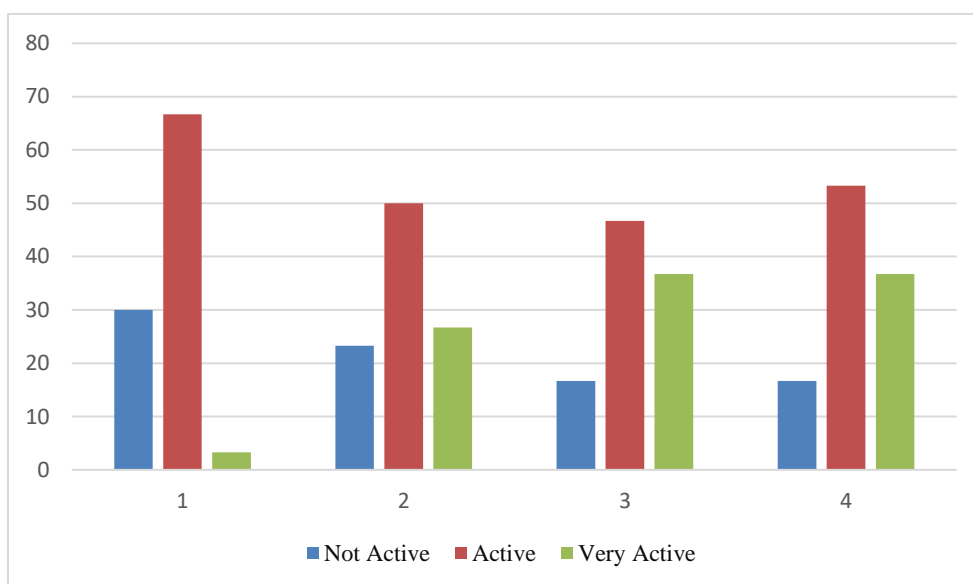


Figure 2. Level of Community Participation in Village Forest Planning

Participation in forest village farmer group membership shows that 73.3% are active, followed by inactive (16.7%) and very active (10.0%). Community participation in determining work plots shows that 66.7% of the community is Active, followed by inactive (26.7%) and Very Active (6.7%). Participation in Village Forest land clearing activities showed that 56.7% of the people were Active, followed by Very Active (30.0%) and not active (13.3%), and participation

in conveying ideas or input in planning stage meetings shows that the community is Active 56.7%, followed by not active (23.3%) and Very Active (20.0%) as presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Community participation in village forest planning, according to respondents

Indicator	Frequency			Likert Scale			Amount
	Inactive	Active	Very Active	1	2	3	
Participation in forest management membership in the following stages:	5	22	3	5	44	9	58
Involvement in work plot assignment activities	8	20	2	8	40	6	54
Participation in Village Forest land clearing activities	4	17	9	4	34	27	65
Conveying ideas or inputs at the village forest planning stage	7	17	6	7	34	18	59
Total Score							236
							Medium

Source: Primary data processing, 2023

The results of calculating the total score for community participation in the planning stages of the village forest program in Oma village show that the four assessment indicators obtained a total score of 236, including in the medium category in the range 201-280. These results can be seen from Table 3. The assessment percentage for the four indicators has the highest rate for each indicator, considered moderate.

Level of Community Participation in the Implementation Stage of the Village Forest Program

The assessment results of community participation in the implementation stages of the village forest program include five important indicators: involvement in seed procurement, planting, maintenance, security, and harvesting activities of village forest products.

Participation in seed procurement activities from the village forest program shows that 66.7% is Active, followed by not active (30.0%) and Very Active (3.3%). Community participation in seed planting activities shows that 50.0% of the community is Active, followed by Very Active (26.7%) and not active (23.3%). Participation in Village Forest work area maintenance activities shows that 46.7% of the community is Active, followed by Very Active (36.7%) and not active (16.7%). Participation in activities to secure Village Forest work areas shows that 43.3% of the community is Active, followed by Very Active (36.7%) and not active (20.0%), and participation in forest product harvesting activities shows that the community is 53.3% Active, followed by Very Active (30.0%) and not active (16.7%) as presented in Table 4.

The results of calculating the total score for community participation in the village forest program implementation stages in Oma village show that the five assessment indicators obtained a total score of 308, including in the medium category in the range 251 - 350. This result can be seen from the percentage assessments of the five indicators, which have the highest percentage for each indicator considered moderate.

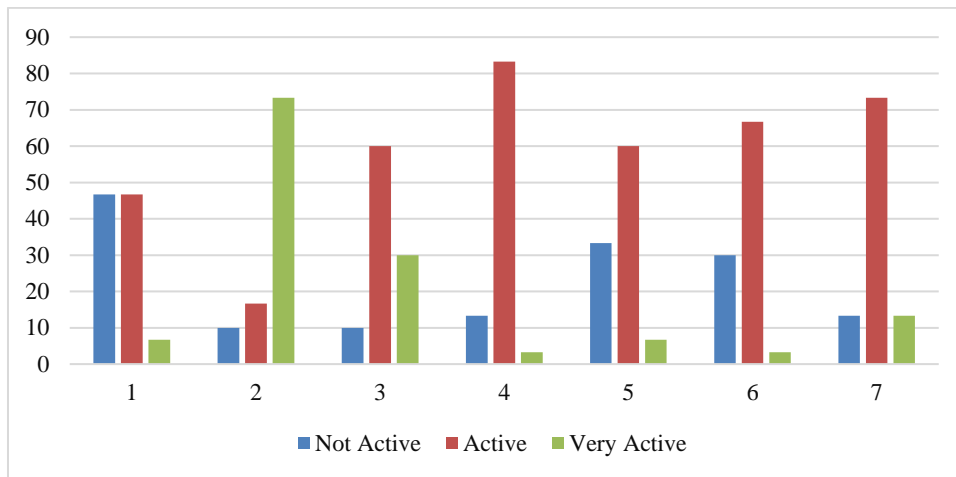


Figure 3. Level of Community Participation in the Implementation Stage of the Village Forest Program

Table 4. Respondent participation in the implementation phase of the Village Forest Program

Indicator	Frequency			Likert Scale			Amount
	Inactive	Active	Very Active	1	2	3	
Participation in seed procurement activities	9	20	1	9	40	3	52
Participation in seedling planting activities	7	15	8	7	30	24	61
Participation in Village Forest maintenance activities	5	14	11	5	28	33	66
Participation in activities to secure the Village Forest area	6	13	11	6	26	33	65
Participation in harvesting Village Forest products	5	16	9	5	32	27	64

Source: Primary data processing, 2023

The village forest development program in Oma village receives support from the regional government to the village government through the integration of the village forest program by obtaining support in the form of procurement of seeds, necessary equipment, local policies, and strengthening community institutions in village forest management. The village forest program is a form of delegation of government authority to village communities to manage forest resources. Strengthening community participation in village forest management can be done to build village community understanding regarding the rights, responsibilities, roles, and benefits obtained by parties in village forest management.

Level of Community Participation in Village Forest Program Evaluation

The results of the assessment of community participation in the evaluation stage of the village forest program include seven important indicators, namely Satisfaction with the Village Forest program, Responses related to improvements with the village forest program, Changes in attitudes toward managing forests with the HD program, Improvement in the community's standard of living with the HD program, active in conveying complaints during program implementation, Activeness in monitoring/monitoring or evaluating group activities. There is an increase in group and community skills from the village forest management program. The assessment results of the seven indicators are presented in the graph below.

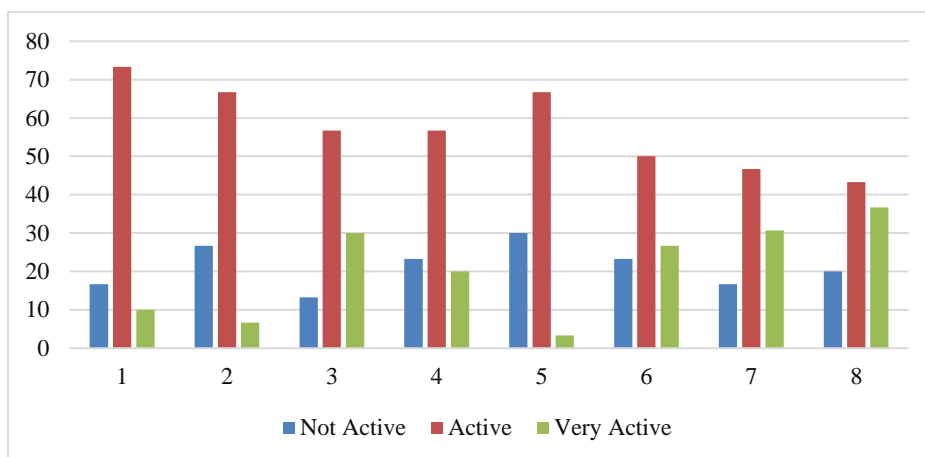


Figure 4. Level of Community Participation in Village Forest Evaluation

The first indicator regarding Satisfaction with the Village Forest program shows that respondents were Active and Inactive at 46.7% and Very Active (6.7%), respectively. Responses regarding improvements to the village forest program showed that the community was Very Active at 73.3%, followed by Active (16.7%) and not active (10.0%). Changes in attitudes in managing forests with the Village Forest program show that 60.0% are Active, followed by Very Active (30.0%) and not active (10.0%). The increase in people's standard of living with the HD program shows that 83.3% are Active, followed by inactive (13.3%) and Very Active (3.3%). Being active in submitting complaints during program implementation showed that Active was 60.0%, followed by inactive (33.3%) and Very Active (6.7%). Activeness in monitoring/monitoring or evaluating group activities shows that Active is 66.7%, followed by inactive (30.0%) and Very Active (3.3%). The increase in group and community skills from the village forest management program shows that Active is 73.3%, followed by inactive (13.3%) and Very Active (13.3%).

Table 5. Community participation in village forest evaluation

Indicator	Frequency			Likert Scale			Amount
	Inactive	Active	Very Active	1	2	3	
Satisfaction with the Village Forest program carried out in the Land of Oma	14	14	2	14	28	6	48
The response related to the improvement of the village forest program	3	5	22	3	10	66	79
Changes in attitudes toward managing forests with VF programs	3	18	9	3	36	27	66
There is an improvement in people's living standards with the VF program	4	25	1	4	50	3	57
Be active in submitting complaints during the implementation of the program	10	18	2	10	36	6	52
Activeness in monitoring/monitoring or evaluation of group activities	9	20	1	9	40	3	52
There is an improvement in the skills of groups and communities from the village forest management program	4	22	4	4	44	12	60
Total Score							414
							Medium

Source: Primary data processing, 2023

Table 5 shows respondents' frequency analysis results for the seven evaluation stage assessment indicators. The results of calculating the total score for community participation in the evaluation stage of the village forest program in Oma village show that the seven assessment indicators obtained a total score of 414, which is included in the medium category in the range 351–490. This result can be seen from the percentage assessment of the seven indicators, with the highest percentage for each indicator considered moderate.

Based on these seven indicators, the community still needs to be satisfied with the village forest program in Oma village. Many people hope for improvements to the village forests of Oma village. The village forest program has not resulted in changes in attitudes toward forest management and has not improved the community's standard of living. The community tends to be active during the program implementation, monitoring/evaluation activities, and skills improvement activities for forest management in the Oma village.

Community Participation in Utilizing Village Forest Program Results

The results of the assessment of community participation in the evaluation stage of the village forest program include eight important indicators, namely: 1) Community approval is needed to implement the Village Forest program in Oma village; 2) Conformity of the Village Forest program with community expectations; 3) Satisfaction with the implementation of the Village Forest program in Oma village; 4) Community satisfaction with implementing Village Forest programs by the PSKL Hall/Forestry Service/KPH; and 5) Work programs from the PSKL Hall/Forestry Service/KPH help increase the production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Oma village; 6) Programs Village forests can increase community income; 7) Village forest programs reduce dependency and increase community awareness of forests; 8) Village Forest Programs (VF) provide benefits to communities.

The results of the indicator assessment can be seen in the graph in Figure 5.

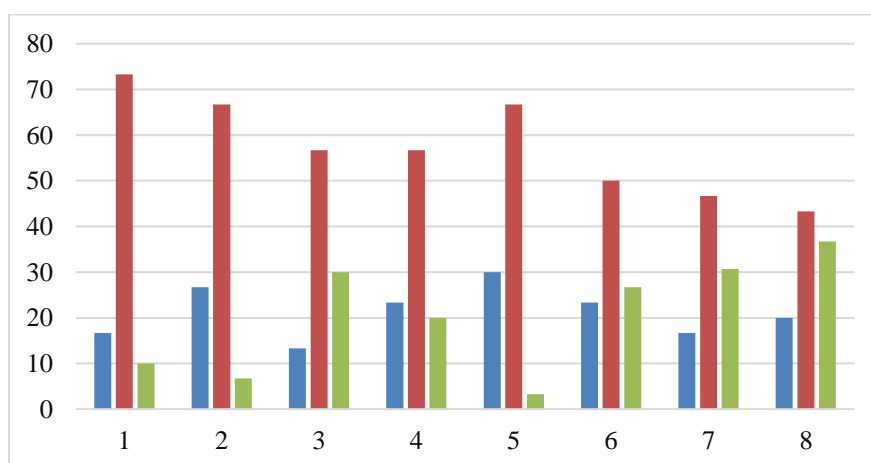


Figure 5. Graph of community participation levels in the evaluation stages of the village forest program

Frequency analysis results for eight assessment indicators of the evaluation stages according to respondents. The first indicator regarding community approval of implementing the

Village Forest program in Oma village shows that the community is not active at 16.7%, followed by Active at 73.3% and Very Active (10.0%). The suitability of the Village Forest program with community expectations shows that the community is not active (26.7%), Active 66.7% and Very Active (6.7%). The satisfaction with implementing the Village Forest program in Oma village shows that the community is inactive at (13.3%), Active at 56.7%, and Very Active (30.0%). Community satisfaction with implementing Village Forest programs by the PSKL Center/Forestry Service/KPH shows that the community is not active (23.3%), followed by Active at 56.7% and Very Active (20.0%). The work program from Balai PSKL/Department of Forestry/KPH to help increase the production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Oma village shows that the community is inactive at (30.0%), followed by Active at 66.7% and Very Active (3.3%). The Village Forest Program can increase community income, showing that the community is inactive at (23.3%), followed by Active at 50.0% and Very Active (26.7%). The village forest program reduces dependency and increases community awareness of forests, showing that the community is inactive at (16.7%), followed by Active at 46.7% and Very Active (36.7%). The Village Forest Program (VF) provides benefits to the community, showing that people are not active at (20.0%), followed by Active at 43.3% and Very Active (36.7%) as presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Community participation in village forest evaluation, according to respondents

Indicators	Frekuensi			Likert Scale			Amount
	Inactive	Active	Very Active	1	2	3	
Community approval is needed to implement the Village Forest program in Oma village.	5	22	3	5	44	9	58
The suitability of the Village Forest program with the expectations of the community	8	20	2	8	40	6	54
There is satisfaction with implementing the Village Forest program in the Land of Oma.	4	17	9	4	34	27	65
Community satisfaction with the implementation of Village Forest programs by the PSKL Center/Forestry Service/FMU	7	17	6	7	34	18	59
The PSKL Center/Forestry Service/FMU work program helps increase the production of non-timber forest products (NTFP) in the Land of Oma.	9	20	1	9	40	3	52
The village forest program can increase community income.	7	15	8	7	30	24	61
Village forest programs reduce dependence and increase community awareness of forests.	5	14	11	5	28	33	66
The Village Forest (VF) program provides benefits to the community.	6	13	11	6	26	33	65
Total Score							480
							Medium

Source: Primary data processing, 2023

The results of calculating the total score for community participation in the harvesting stages of forest products from the village forest program in Oma village show that the eight assessment indicators obtained a total score of 480, including in the medium category in the

range 401 – 560. This result can be seen from the percentage assessment of the seven indicators, with the highest percentage for each indicator considered moderate.

Factors influencing community participation in Village Forest management in Negeri Oma

The village forest management scheme in Oma village, Central Maluku, has received approval from various parties, including the government, the PSKL Center, KPH, and the local community. This program aims to empower communities to utilize forest resources sustainably without changing the function and status of the forest area. With this village forest management, it is hoped that the community can improve their welfare and economic independence and be responsible for preserving natural resources in their area.

The Oma village forest in Central Maluku Regency has been approved for a village forest scheme. This program involves various parties, including the government, PSKL Center, KPH, and communities around the forest. The main objective of village forest management is to empower local communities to gain benefits from forests without changing the function and status of the forest area. Village forest development is expected to increase the security of livelihoods of communities that depend on forest resources and encourage responsibility and accountability in managing natural resources.

Communities around the forest feel the benefits of the Village Forest's existence, mainly providing a sense of security and comfort in agricultural activities. However, not all communities have the opportunity to manage Village Forests because the process is gradual and regulated by applicable laws and regulations. For example, the Oma village forest in Central Maluku Regency provides various benefits, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, water management regulation, and the provision of non-timber forest products that support the local community's economy.

The process of community empowerment in the village forest program in Oma village has been taking place through the village forest program run by the Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Center (BPSKL) in the Maluku-Papua Region. Community participation in village forest programs is increasing in line with their desire to develop their potential and the resources they have. Involvement in these programs provides opportunities for the community to increase income while strengthening collaboration between the community and stakeholders in empowerment efforts. However, there is a gap between hopes and obstacles in the complex dynamics of community life. This ultimately becomes an important problem in successfully implementing the village forest program in Oma village.

Implementing village forest programs can run smoothly and successfully with the support of the parties who encourage these programs to run smoothly and successfully. These factors include stakeholder synergy. The successful implementation of the village forest program in Oma village is influenced by forest and land resources, which have great potential to be

productive and innovative for the people of Oma village. Stakeholders also encourage and support implementing the village forest program, including the Ministry of Forestry and the Environment through the Regional Forestry UPT, the Maluku Provincial Government, the private sector, the Oma village Government, and the community. The main obstacle in empowering village communities is the quality of human resources (HR), which still needs to be optimal. The low quality of human resources impacts people's understanding and awareness in exploring their potential. Apart from that, the private sector is trying to control land through privatization, hampering the implementation of village forest programs and tenure problems in the community, which still need to be clarified.

The Oma village Forest has an important role in maintaining environmental balance and supporting the lives of the surrounding community. This forest functions as a carbon absorber and a habitat for various flora and fauna, protects the soil from erosion, and regulates water management. Apart from that, this village forest is also a source of income for the local community.

CONCLUSION

Forms of community participation in the village forest program in Oma village, Haruku Island District, include participation in the form of ideas, opinions, or input regarding the management of village forest areas in Oma village; involvement of personnel in the form of cleaning the village forest land, procuring seeds, planting, securing and harvesting activities; and forms of social participation in the form of cooperation, kinship, and brotherhood between communities. The level of community participation based on the results of frequency analysis and Likert calculations at the four stages of Village Forest management, namely the planning, implementation, program evaluation, and results utilization stages, shows that the level of community participation in the four stages of participation is included in the moderate category. Several driving and inhibiting factors greatly influence the successful and efficient management of the Oma village Forest. The driving factor for the success of the Oma village forest is the synergy between stakeholders (central and regional government), the private sector, village government, and the community in supporting the development of the potential of the Oma village forest and inhibiting factors in community participation include low quality of human resources (HR). At the community level, there is a lack of understanding regarding the rights, responsibilities, and important role of village forests in Oma village.

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