

Evaluation:

Yayasan Penghibur Reforestation Program in the Guwo Mountain Area, within the District of Jepara, Central Java.

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Contents

1. Introduction

2. Yayasan Penghibur

3. The Context of the Reforestation in the Guwo Mountain Area

3.1. Decentralization and Forestry Policies

4. Yayasan Penghibur and Reforestation Programme: Aims and Implementation

4.1. Guwo Hamlet

4.2. Senggrong Hamlet

4.3. Damarwulan Village

4.4. Overview

5. Significance

6. Problems and Lessons Learned

7. Future Plans

Conclusions and Recommendations

References

1. Introduction

The evaluation on Yayasan Penghibur is based on five days visit (19.6. - 24.6.) to the foundation and villages, which participated in the reforestation project funded by Emmaus Helsinki in 2006-2008. Evaluation was based on non-structured interviews and discussions with peasant organization members in two hamlets of Blingoh village, peasant organization chair of Damarwulan village, the State Forestry Corporation staff, and four Yayasan Penghibur staffs. During the evaluation I visited to the Pucang Pendowo hill, a focus of reforestation activities, and Guwo mountain area several times. The aim of the evaluation has been to explore how the project succeeded in reaching the aims it had settled; how sustainable the reforestation of Guwo mountain is; what problems participant faced during the process; how the project was perceived by the villagers surrounding the Yayasan Penghibur who participated in the project. In addition, I decided to include other issues related to Yayasan Penghibur because these issues, in my mind, are relevant in understanding the reforestation project.

2. Yayasan Penghibur

Yayasan Penghibur locates in the village of Kelet within the sub-district of Keling, the district of Jepara in Central Java. In order to better understand the reforestation program by Yayasan Penghibur I will give a short overview over the foundation. Yayasan Penghibur was founded in 1984 as a leprosy home at the time when there was an urgent need for a place for those who were ostracised from their own society because of leprosy. In the beginning, there were five children. YP also built up a health clinic which became part of its fund raising program. During the last few decades medical care for leprosy patients have developed elsewhere. Today, it is a home to 38 children of whom some reside in the educational institutions somewhere else. Children are orphans, victims of domestic violence, or there are children suffering from mental or physical handicaps. YP offers them home and food, schooling and professional education so that children will hopefully be able to take their place in the Indonesian society.

In order to fund the shelter home for the children, YP has cooperated with Emmaus Helsinki and Emmaus International, and some other foreign donors. In 1986, YP was supported by Leprosy Work Relief Emmaus-Switzerland and Emmaus Helsinki and with that support the foundation started constructing buildings. YP was also supported to start income generating activities, for instance, at that time the foundation raised chicken and goats, and planted clove and other trees.

Besides these donors, YP has developed different forms of fund raising. The economic activities include raising milking cows (7), beef cows (8) and goats (5). YP sells milk every morning and afternoon. YP also distributes milk into some villages for free. Many villagers praised this aid, which is understandable since for the ordinary Javanese milk is expensive. It was told that YP receives about 50 percent of its food items from their own crop farming. YP has its own carpenter and furniture enterprise and it was able to export furniture some years ago. Now this activity has been halted for the time being.

YP has been supported by Emmaus International for giving training to the farmer groups' members (KT Sejahtera and KT Manunggal) in Jrahi village, located within the sub district of Gunung Wungkal, in the neighbouring district of Pati, so that they will be able to strengthen their organizations. These farmer's organizations have been given some funds to raise cattle and continue their agricultural activities.

Since April 2008, YP has distributed 10 litres of milk to the elementary school children every day with a support from Emmaus International. Until now, more than 10 school children from the poor families have received daily milk. Most children have gained more weight and they have been able to be more focused focus on their education thus having direct impact on their learning, and future.

Other than that, YP has helped 46 widows by giving them food, sugar, and oil every month (February – June 2009) with a support from Emmaus International.

3. The Context of the Reforestation in the Guwo Mountain Area

Jejara has suffered from illegal loggings since at least 1998. There are 1.073.631 inhabitants in Jejara. The forest area in the district of Jejara covers 28.028,07 hectares from which the state forest area covers 16.912,20 hectares. The state forest is categorized as a production forest with 11.595 hectares; national park with 1.398 hectares; protected forest with 2.411,15 hectares and BTN 111.625 hectares. Outside of the state forest area people's forest covers about 11.115,87 hectares. (www.Jeparakab.go.id). In 2000, more than 3000 hectares of state production forest was stripped from trees. In 2009 it was estimated that there were still at least 3000 hectares of barren forest land.

In 2009, there were still severe illegal loggings going on in the State Forestry Corporation's (Perum Perhutani) Pati forestry unit, which includes the district of Jepara.¹

In Java, the state forest area is legally under the governance of the State Forestry Corporation, Perum Perhutani. Perum Perhutani manages 23 percent of the total land cover of Java, categorized as state forest land. Many Javanese living on the uplands manage the so-called people's forest (*hutan rakyat*). Since 1998 in many places in Java the state forest areas were looted and taken over by the local people who then farmed there food crops. Consequently, Java has suffered from ecological problems.

The district of Jepara has been famous for its furniture production. After the illegal loggings devastated teak plantations managed by the State Forestry Corporation, furniture entrepreneurs have had difficulties to get good quality timber for teak furniture production. Besides, in 2005, in the aftermaths of the illegal loggings, Perum Perhutani decided to raise the price of teak logs thus making it more difficult for the local furniture entrepreneurs to get high quality and legal wood. For this reason, the furniture industry has suffered severely. The price of timber has grown high due to the scarcity of timber so that many of the entrepreneurs, including YP, have had difficulties to buy teak and maintain its furniture business. The big furniture exporters or mediators do not pay enough per log now when the teak is scarce and has become so expensive, YP staff told.

YP worked together with villages that are located in the Guwo mountain area. These villages include Blingoh and Jugo in the sub-district of Donorojo, and the village of Damarwulan. In the village of Blingoh it cooperated with Senggrong and Guwo hamlets. Previously Blingoh was part of the Keling sub-district, but in 2007, the new sub-district of Donorejo was formed. Now, Kelet and Blingoh villages locate in the distinct sub-districts.

After 1998 many parts of the state forest lands in Jepara were stripped from trees. Villagers from the villages around the Guwo Mountain took over the state forest land and elsewhere and planted food crops (maize, beans, cassava and dry rice) on the state forest land. Some state forest land areas were rented to the villagers for growing sugar canes (although, legally Perum Perhutani is not allowed to rent the land to the villagers). Many of the villagers stopped managing their own forest

¹ http://www.perumperhutani.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1011&Itemid=1. 25.7.2009.

land or *hutan rakyat*. Consequently, some water springs died out and erosion occurred on the hills having negative effects on hydrological balance, causing erosion and heavy winds.

Some hamlets of the Blingoh village are surrounded by fertile, green forests and gardens and consequently villagers have prospered well with reforestation and they are able to maintain food security through a production of local crops, among the others. However, in some areas the soil is poor not only because of the illegal loggings but because of agricultural activities during the last decades that have dependent on heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Further, for a long time villagers have farmed cassava on the mountain slopes as it can be grown in the between trees and it is easy growing crop. However, according to some studies, cassava may have bad impact on the quality of soil. According to one staff from YP, it has been estimated that it will take ten years for the Pucang Pendowo hill and the Guwo mountain slopes to recover despite reforestation and fertilizing the land with organic fertilizers. The residents prefer different tree species depending on the location of the land they want to grow trees; it was also noted that Pucang Pendowo hill owned by YP has few degrees colder climate than Guwo, Semggrong or many other locations because of the altitude which has impact on which tree species or fruit trees may be grown on the land.

There have been multiple environmental and economic problems in the area since the change of political regime in 1998. The devastation of forest cover on the hill areas and long term agricultural activities on the slopes were noted as main reasons to start reforestation. However, erosion and poor quality of soil, water scarcity and heavy winds have effect on reforestation efforts.

3.1. Decentralization and forestry policies

In 2001 the first decentralization law was inaugurated (UU 22/2001). The law was revised and the new more centralized decentralization law was issued in 2004.

Decentralization is about distribution of the political power to regional governments. There are at least two forms of decentralization; federalism and devolution. After the reformation era started in 1998 in Indonesia, decentralization took the form of devolution whereby the central power is above the regional power and may overcome their regional legislation. The efforts to decentralize the state forest management so that local communities would have access to land and forest have been either rejected or top-down lead so that the central government and its allies (the State Forestry Corporation) have been the ones to make decisions over the state forest management. This is due to the situation whereby the forestry law (UU no. 41 / 1999) centralizes the forest management thus

contradicting with the autonomy law mentioned above. The forestry law gives the authority of the forest management to the State Forestry Corporation. District or even provincial governments have no authority over the state forest management – even though the state forests would be the most severely destructed areas. This means, that district government have difficulties to address the ecological and deforestation problems they face within their district in Java. Thus, it seems to me, district governments have started to support communities through peasant organizations in order to reforest people's forests, at least.

The district governments are nowadays able to decide over the use of their district budgets. In this sense, the devolution of power has meant that villages may form cooperatives or peasant organizations and they may apply funds from the local district governments, for instance, for the reforestation or agricultural programs on the basis of their own cultural practices.

This positive development in some districts of Java, such as Jepara, is countered by the state forest management by the State Forestry Corporation. It has bad reputation because of corruption, use of violent means in guarding the state forests, mismanagement of forest land through monoculture plantations, and because of many disputes with the local communities. Today, the State Forestry Corporation operates on the basis of its social forestry program (PHBM). However, it has been noted that deep mistrust prevails between the forest communities and the State Forestry Corporation all around Java. It was too short a time to explore the position of Perum Perhutani in Jepara, but the neighboring districts of Pati and Blora are famous for the kind of disputes and violent clashes even today.

4. Yayasan Penghibur and reforestation program; aims and implementation

Yayasan Penghibur's (from now on YP) reforestation program aimed at reforesting 3, 5 hectares of land in the Guwo mountain area. YP have planted trees on its own land plot, the Pucang Pendowo hill (on Guwo mountain), since the 1990s. However, in 2001 it started its first reforestation program in the area. The aim was to bring back hydrological balance and stop erosion. Mountain Guwo is located seven kilometres away from YP in the Blingoh village, which is located in the subdistrict of Donorojo. Down to the hill, Jugo village and Senggrong hamlet (Blingoh village) are located, and on the other side of the hill the hamlet of Guwo (Blingoh village) is located. All these villages have been involved in reforestation project implemented by YP and supported by Emmaus Helsinki in 2006-2008.

In the eighties YP bought land from the Guwo mountain area or, more specifically, Pucang Pendowo hill. At that time, the hill was grassland (*alang-alang*). Person who sold the land believed that it was inhabited by a bad spirits which made him sick. For that reason, he was willing to sell the land with cheap price. Further, other villager sold the neighbouring land plot. Finally, YP had about 3, 5 hectares of land. The quality of land is poor, as it was mentioned by many villagers. The poor quality is partly due to the poor management; the hill had not had forest cover for many decades. Thus, YP started reforesting land using non-chemical fertilizers to increase the quality of soil and to restore the water springs.

In 2001 - 2003 YP conducted tree nursery and land cleaning project in the Guwo Mountain. It was supported by an anonymous donor. Emmaus Helsinki supported tree nursery, road repairing and hut building in 2004. In 2005 the Embassy of Finland supported watering, nursery and dam building in Guwo mountain area.

In 2006-2008 YP was supported by Emmaus Helsinki to run the Guwo mountain reforestation program. YP bought 30 000 seedlings of different tree species and shared seedlings to villagers in Guwo hamlet (Blingoh village), Senggrong hamlet (Blingoh village), and Jugo (village) on the basis of the wishes of the villagers.

The process involved also Damarwulan village where a local man runs a peasant organization and grows seedlings. The peasant organization maintains a tree nursery. A number of seedlings were bought by YP from this Damarwulan village. YP staff was of the opinion that after the tree planting project and buying seedlings from Damarwulan, the village was able to start intense cooperation with the local forestry department. For instance, the district government mentioned Damarwulan as an exemplary village in reforesting. When I visited to the village in June 2009, the head of the local peasant organization told that his peasant organization and the village was nominated participant in the national Caring for Forest competition (*lomba peduli hutan*).

In the following section I will explore each of the hamlets and their relation to YP's reforestation program.

4.1. Guwo Hamlet

Guwo hamlet is located in the Blinggoh village which borders the Kelet village where YP is located. The hamlet of about 350 families is located above the hills on the Guwo Mountain. In this hamlet all the 350 families were somehow involved with the tree planting project conducted by YP. According to the Guwo hamlet head there are 275 hectares of privately owned forests (*hutan rakyat*), where people plant mainly teak, mahogany, sengon laut, mindi, cacao and belinjo, jengkol and coconut trees, and pepper that is grown on the trunks in the forest.

Already for few decades the villagers had planted mixed crops on the mountain hills and they have lived mainly from mixed or rotating crop farming (corn, beans, dry rice, and cassava). Guwo hamlet head narrated that after 1998 the residents of Guwo hamlet took part in the national reforestation program. The hamlet suffered from water scarcity which followed from drying water springs on the hill. At that time, the villagers received seedlings from the local district government for the most of the 275 hectares.

Furthermore, after 1998 illegal loggings devastated the forest cover from the state forest land and many villagers moved from planting crops on the state forest land to growing trees on their own forest land plots. Thus, the agricultural land was slowly turned to forest land. However, this was partly possible because the villagers took over the state forest land in order to use it as their agricultural land (that is forbidden, but since the forestry staff were afraid of the villagers they could not do anything). In Guwo, villagers preferred sengon laut tree specie because it is fast growing tree and could be cut and sold when it is five years old. Sengon laut specie is easily sold to the timber markets with reasonable price.

In the beginning of the project YP distributed 500 seedlings for 20 people residing at the hamlet. Later 8 people more wanted get involved and also received 500 seedlings. The number of seedlings was gradually increased into 900 seedlings per person/household, because some of the seedlings died and villagers asked for more seedlings. Seedlings consisted of teak, sengon laut, mahogany and cacao species and the amount totalled about 25 200 seedlings (28 x 900). According to the hamlet head, the 28 Guwo villagers were mainly those taking part in the reforestation program.

The Guwo hamlet head told that in the past villagers had planted cassava on the forest land from which they earned about 4 million rupiah / 1 hectare of land in one year when selling the cassava harvest. Now, they planted sengon laut and they expected to earn about 50 million rupiah in about

five to seven years from one hectare of land. Thus, villagers felt they would benefit from the tree planting.

Recently, the Guwo hamlet has been helped by YP with a support from Emmaus International. YP started cooperation with the UKDW (Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana) Yogyakarta, which made a survey on water resources in the area and some plans to overcome water scarcity. YP has not yet received the results from the University.

The Guwo hamlet head seemed to have different view about growing seedlings than YP staff had. The Guwo hamlet head had the view that villagers are not used to grow trees in the nursery and that sengon laut trees grow by themselves under the bigger trees as long as the land is cleaned around the seedling. This seemed to be a customary way to grow trees in the people's forest. However, as some YP staff mentioned, the percentage of dying trees might be higher.

The situation might change again, though. In March 2009 the protected state forest land where the villagers farmed mixed crops since the illegal loggings in 1998 was closed by Perum Perhutani. There were signs that hamlet residents started to cut sengon laut trees from people's forest and plant mixed crops again on their own land; however, there was probably new awareness to spare the trees and plant food crops without destroying the forest.

4.2. Senggrong Hamlet

Senggrong hamlet's inhabitants took part in the YP reforestation project by planting seedlings on the private forest plot in the hamlet. The participants were women who belonged to the local peasant's organization KT Mudo Makarti, which was formed in 2001. KT Mudo Makarti has female and male sections that operate separately but form one organization. YP distributed seedlings through the female section, and I interviewed its current and former chairwomen.

The current chair of the organization told that all the fifty female peasants received seedlings and took part in the planting and training. YP distributed them cacao, teak, mahogany and sengon laut seedlings. In addition to that, YP distributed pepper seeds that grow on the trunks.

YP organized International Emmaus Youth Work Camp in 2007 which was supported by Emmaus International. In running the camp YP cooperated with the University of Kristen Duta Wacana

(Yogyakarta). The work camp focused on planting trees on the neighbouring land of the Pucang Pendowo hill and organizing seminars on reforestation. The theme of the work camp was: Save Our Nature, Save Our Future. The participants included 25 persons from South America, Benin, Congo, Portugal, France, Finland, Lebanon, India and Bangladesh. YP involved 25 persons consisting of NGO representatives, students of universities and other organizations from Indonesia. In addition, YP also involved the State Forestry Corporation, Perum Perhutani. This camp had an inspiring effect for reforestation in Central Java and even in East Java, the YP staff told.

Before the distribution and planting YP organized training in 2007 (part of the international volunteer reforestation camp). Training on nursery and seedling planting was conducted together with the Indonesian State Forestry Corporation. In the training villagers were told how to make nursery and plant seedlings.

The current chair of the KT was of the opinion that distribution of seedlings was indeed helpful because many of the villagers would not be able to buy seedlings with 1500 rp.

In an interview the former chair of the women section told that KT Mudo Makarti took part in the national reforestation program for the first time in 2001. Local government distributed ginger, cacao trees, fruit trees such as belinjo, duren and rambutan, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In addition, it gave villagers soft loans. KT Mudo Makarti also took part in the reforestation competitions at the provincial and local district levels. It was told that nowadays villagers may apply reforestation or agricultural funds from the local government based on their own wishes while during the New Order period the government ordered them to reforest and told them what tree species they had to plant. For this reason, it is understandable that local people seem to be so enthusiastic to take part in the government reforestation and agricultural programs.

In the 1980s villagers planted mainly food crops on the slopes of Guwo mountain. At that time the price of timber was cheap, and the State Forestry Corporation had full control over the timber market, especially teak, in Java. According to KT Mudo Makarti member, villagers were not aware of the fact that forests should be preserved and protected. However, people suffered especially from water scarcity. In Senggrong, dry season may last as long as seven months. Villagers told that if there were no trees they could not grow anything on their hamlet land.

In many places in Java the local government has supported reforestation through local peasant organizations. KT Mudo Makarti is a good example of such a kind of peasant organization, formed after reformation era started. It bridges the interests of the villagers and local government in reforesting barren hills, restoring the hydrological balance and thus enhancing villagers' economic livelihoods on the basis of their own practices.

YP's reforestation program has followed similar lines. It has, however, given more focus on nursery and educating villagers in taking care of the seedlings. Senggrong hamlet residents told that YP's program has benefited them in terms of restoring the hydrological balance, increasing the economy and thus wellbeing. It has reforested the landscape. The program was based on villagers' own wishes; they could suggest the tree species and location to plant the seedlings. Thus, they felt they had an ownership to the project. On the basis of these statements it seems that reforestation as conducted by the hamlet residents will continue thus being sustainable and having long term impact. The chair of the KT Mudo Makarti told that they will continue even without the support from YP. However, she also praised the cooperation and wished for its continuation.

Senggrong hamlet's residents belonging to the peasant organization said that their main problem lies in marketing their fruit harvests. In the times of harvest, they have difficulties to transport or process fruits into products (chips or something alike) so that they would benefit. In this matter they wished for help and guidance.

4.3. Damarwulan village

Damarwulan village has its own peasant organization. The chair of the peasant organization was well known in the hamlets of Blingoh village; his nursery and seedlings were suggested as the best ones in the region. YP had good relations to the peasant organization and to the chair of the organization. While YP staff told that not all the seedlings they bought from the village were good, in general they were of good quality and the cooperation went well. The chair of the Damarwulan peasant organization told that while Perum Perhutani cuts all the trees at one time without reforesting the area immediately, the villagers aim to plant 10 trees to every cut one.

4.4. Overview

Blingoh villagers and YP shared the view that the quality of soil differed even within the Guwo mountain area and between the hamlets. On one hand, this had impact on how reforestation went on and what kind of impact it had. On the other hand, the long term mismanagement of the hill tops and slopes had severely destructed the quality of the soil so that reforestation demanded more work; in the Pucang Pendowo hill villagers had to carry loads of goat extract to fertilize the soil with organic means. It was estimated that it takes at least ten years for land to recover from the mismanaged in the previous decades. The same goes to the Guwo hamlet where the soil is rocky and currently non-fertile. In Senggrong, the hamlet residents told that they have a very good quality soil and thus their people's forest was in a good shape.

Local government have been active in distributing funds through local peasant organizations to reforest local forest areas. At the same time it has supported local income generating activities. Further, the price of timber has been getting higher and villagers felt that they will benefit economically from the reforestation; the money villagers get from selling mahogany trees is often used for house building or buying motorcycle; other tree species have also their own specific uses and purposes. Of course, there is a danger that all the trees will be cut and people will move back to agriculture when they don't have other economic activities or they are heavily dependent on the timber markets.

5. Significance

In the 1970s-1990s the Indonesian government supported green revolution and agricultural programs everywhere in Java. These programs relied on heavy use of hybrid seed, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. While increasing the yields from one or two to three per one year, these new agricultural practices have also destructed the soil or changed local ecosystems. The state forest land management goes along the same lines, because it has been based on monoculture plantations and heavy use of pesticides, and total cut of all the trees in large areas often located on the vulnerable uplands, the practices which have caused serious ecological problems. Besides these historical problems in relation to reforestation, the change of political regime in 1998 brought upon political vacuum and lack of any control; local villagers took what they could from the state forest land earlier strictly forbidden from them. Javanese people suffer from lack of agricultural land because of population density. Thus, the stripping of trees from the state forest land and even from elsewhere, were followed by ecological catastrophes; droughts, floods, heavy winds and landslides.

The significance of the YP reforestation program is in its intervention in the reforesting Java, which suffers from multiple ecological problems, which are also clearly visible in the district of Jepara.

All the villagers mentioned that the main significance of the reforesting of the Guwo mountain area lies in the restoring the hydrological balance in Guwo Mountain. YP staff had the view that reforesting is about restoring the quality of the soil. Of course, reforestation has wider implications; Jepara and the Guwo mountain area have suffered from erosion, heavy winds and landslides. The reforesting has direct impact in these problems.

In the case of nearby Damarwulan village and Senggrong hamlet it is interesting to note that the local government is supporting their reforesting activities with local funds and so the activity in those village and farmers groups has been sustainable and continues with or without the support of YP.

6. Problems and lessons learned

1. YP's reforestation program was conducted as planned in most parts. In middle of the project YP staff realized that they would need more qualified book keeping staff. New book keeping staff was recruited. Unfortunately, the person had to resign because of her getting married. Since 2009, YP has recruited a new book keeper. However, there would be a need for assistance in financial management and administration and YP staff had the view that external staff for half a year period would be excellent.
2. In the international Emmaus reforestation camp organized by YP, the volunteers and villagers built up stone made paving to stop erosion and trees from falling. Some of these stone made slope paving collapsed and YP had to rebuild them, which demanded more work and time than estimated.
3. Villagers stealing seedlings and crops became a big problem for YP. Most often the villagers want to take grass for their cattle and while cutting the grass they also cut the seedlings thus destroying them. The villagers are forced to cut the tops of the trees which have become food for their cattle. Was there no other place to take grass; would it help to identify grassland areas which would not harm the seedlings?

Sometimes, Javanese villagers take some part of the harvest from their fellow villagers, a pattern of local reciprocity which generally follow agreements made in the village between the neighbours. Thus, what might seem to be stealing to a “westerner” is not always stealing, but could be called “negative reciprocity”. When I asked from the Damarwulan peasant organization chair, does he experience a loss of seedlings from his nursery, he responded by saying that why would anybody steal from him, since he has involved the closest neighbours in the nursery and reforestation programs. Does this mean that local people have not been able to participate in the YP reforestation program as much as expected? Jealousy is also common in Java and people feel they should all have a share; that is of course not always possible. Further, villagers herd cattle maybe more than before which increases need for grass. Poverty also may force villagers to take without permit. YP staff has the view that Guwo people are not those stealing seedlings or crops, but they come outside of the area.

It could be wise to identify key persons in the village or hamlets and recruit them to take care of the nursery. However, since YP has its own staff and reforestation is also a hobby for the children in the shelter, it might be impossible.

4. Part of the seedlings was bought from the State Forestry Corporation, Perum Perhutani, and some of them died or were of bad quality. Also, the instructions given by the forestry officials (local government) and Perum Perhutani differed. Perum Perhutani staff was suspected of corruption and at the time of the evaluation he was already removed from his position. Damarwulan peasant organization sold seedlings and part of them died. YP has responded to the problem by building its own nursery. Next year it will try to sell and distribute part of its own seedlings.

5. YP is not willing to raise more funds to operate the reforestation project in the Pucang Pendowo hill. YP staff feels that they can cover the continuation of the reforestation by selling the trunks of the trees, fruits and vegetables, also by renting their bungalows located on the hill.

6. Currently, YP is reconsidering how to raise more funds to run the operation. In trying to respond financial issues, YP sold 3 trucks of logs in 2008, hoping to earn 20 million rupiah. Because of various problems YP got only 8 million rupiah. It was interesting to note that salaries in Jepara and paid by YP were twice as high as they are, for instance, in Wonosobo district (Central Java). However, Jepara is furniture and teak production district with higher living costs and salaries. YP estimates that it has approximately 3500 euro per one month to run the operation of the foundation

including the children home. The support from Finland comes from "lastenkodin kummit" through Yayasan Penghiburin tuki ry. Thus the operation may continue.

7. Furniture industry: YP staff told that since the high price of the teak logs, its furniture enterprise has not been able to operate. Further, it has had difficulties to obtain legal wood. The operation of the furniture enterprise has been halted for the time being, but YP will start it as soon as possible. The furniture show room is still open in the Yogyakarta, city.

8. Some of the YP staffs became recruited by outsiders some time after the employment in the foundation or had to leave for other reasons, which caused frustration in relation to the management and administration. It was also costly, since after educating the staff, some of them left the foundation. Employees were not always as committed as expected or hoped by the YP permanent staff. This is actually a common problem in Java and very difficult to address.

7. Future plans

YP has a plan to continue reforestation or at least water project with the Guwo hamlet, which seems to have more problems with maintaining tree cover on the people's forest than other hamlets or villages in the Guwo mountain area. The hamlet suffers from poverty and has been oriented to agriculture rather than to the forest management.

Besides, YP will continue reforesting and managing the Pucang Pendowo hill and areas nearby by its own effort. YP has 30 000 seedlings growing on its nursery that is located on the Pucang Pendowo hill. In 2010, it plans to sell part of the seedlings while some amount of the seedlings may be distributed to the villages and thus could be planted on the Guwo mountain area.

YP has a plan to begin mushroom farming following an example of a nearby village where a successful mushroom farm is now operating. If YP is able to start successful mushroom farm, they could educate Senggrong women in mushroom farming and have collaboration.

As soon as the timber and teak markets recover from the heavy illegal loggings and other problems in Jepara, YP will be able to start furniture business again. Right now it might be difficult.

Conclusions and recommendations

YP's reforestation program has been successful in many terms: the Pucang Pendowo hill has sufficient tree cover; the paving of the slopes has been redone. The cooperation between the villagers encouraged them in reforesting and maintaining the forest cover; villagers practiced mixed crop farming in between the trees which supports their local economy and food security. YP's reforesting project has encouraged more cooperation between the villagers and the local government and these parties may continue reforestation with the local government distributing funds to the local villagers for the purpose. It has also encouraged people in the surrounding areas to care about the forests and nature, which is valuable indeed in Java.

The 1998 state forest land stripping benefited the villagers in economic terms since they have been able to grow crops on the state forest land. At the same time, they have grown trees on their own forest land plots around the Guwo mountain area. However, after nine years of managing the state forest land for agricultural purposes, now the state forest lands are again planted with teak that can be cut when 40-70 years old, or sengon laut and acacia that can be cut when 5-7 years old, and some other tree species. In some areas, villagers are able to take part in managing the state forest land after forming farmer organizations (LMDH) which cooperate with the State Forestry Corporation. The conflicts seem to be continuing, anyhow. Furthermore, in some areas villagers are not able to participate in the state forest land management, because Perum Perhutani have invited outside investors. For this reason, most probably, the villagers who planted trees on their own forest plots during the time they were able to farm crops on the state forest land, will now return to farm crops in their own forests, *hutan rakyat*. Probably they need support to continue reforestation in the Guwo Mountain area.

On the other hand, it seems to me that YP has sufficiently supported villagers in their reforestation efforts, and now villagers are supported by the local government and forests are already growing well enough. The support from the local government is something that one cannot predict and it is wise to continue the project if the local government did not have cooperation with the villagers. Also, it would be good to support villagers in making their own nursery. But some villagers (Guwo) felt that making nursery is not according to their custom. Conversely, the chair of the peasant organization in Damarwulan have developed highly appreciated nursery.

Yayasan Penghibur does important work in the district of Jepara; it reaches many people and the program has wide consequences not only in terms of livelihoods of the villagers but also in restoring the damaged ecosystem in the upland Jepara. YP has been able to address the problems it had to face during the program. Also reforestation is part of the solution in the district where severe forest destruction has occurred causing multiple ecological problems, which again has effect on local livelihoods and well-being of the local people.

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