

Green Ecotourism: Concept and Regulations for Selling Java's Forest Areas Without Illegal Logging or Damaging

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Abstract

Damage to forest areas in Java remains a significant concern. Land degradation, floods, fires, and landslides continue to threaten the safety of future generations, who bear no responsibility for these outcomes. Economically, forest management has not improved community welfare. This mixed-method legal research, combining normative and socio-legal approaches and utilizing historical and legislative analysis as well as in-depth interviews, aims to examine the history and regulations governing forest area management. The study introduces the concept of green ecotourism, which involves commercializing forest areas without resorting to illegal logging or environmental destruction. The findings indicate that 1) historically, numerous forest management programs in Java have failed to enhance local welfare, often treating communities as passive recipients without rights or obligations. 2) The green ecotourism model is part of the



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broader green economy framework, which is constitutionally supported by the 1945 Constitution and interpreted in various laws and regulations. Green ecotourism centers forest areas and forest-edge villages in program implementation, positioning these communities as agents of environmentally sustainable development to reduce illegal logging and forest destruction. This approach empowers local communities and leverages all forest resources and village potential, in collaboration with formal institutions such as the *Badan Usaha Milik Desa* (BUMDes) or Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDES), the *Koperasi Desa Merah dan Putih*, and universities, to achieve self-reliant villages in pursuit of Indonesia Emas 2045.

KEYWORDS: *Green ecotourism, Selling, Java's forests, Without, Illegal logging and damaging.*

Introduction

The degradation of forest areas on the island of Java has reached a critical level. Deforestation, soil degradation, flooding, landslides, droughts, and forest fires have become recurring disasters, resulting in significant property loss and preventable fatalities. From an economic standpoint, these environmental challenges have failed to enhance the welfare of communities residing near forests and have contributed to increased economic inequality.¹

Although research on forest area management in Java is extensive, it remains largely confined to technical forestry, forest

¹ Subadi, *'Penguasaan dan Pemanfaatan Lahan di Kawasan Hutan (Menuju Penguasaan dan Pemanfaatan Lahan yang Ramah Lingkungan dan Berkelanjutan demi Kesejahteraan Masyarakat dari Perspektif Otonomi Daerah') (Towards Land Tenure and Utilisation in Forest Areas (Towards Land Tenure and Utilisation)*, ed. JW. Muliawan, 1st edition (Jakarta: Prestasi Pustaka Publishers, 2010).

management², and legal anthropological perspectives.³ Forest area management⁴ is implemented sectorally by Perum Perhutani, which primarily relies on inexpensive labor from forest-edge villages under the guise of community participation. This approach has proven ineffective and inefficient, resulting in significant frustration among forest-edge village communities. This frustration culminated in widespread looting and destruction throughout nearly all forested areas of Java in 1997–1998.⁵ Furthermore, the anticipated decentralization has not been realized within the forestry sector.⁶

Forest area management has been systematically integrated with environmental management and conservation⁷ through the framework of green ecotourism. Leveraging and empowering local resources in forest-edge villages and local authorities, alongside the development of government laws and policies,⁸ is

² San Afri Awang and Bambang Adji, *'Perubahan Arah dan Alternatif: Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Hutan Perhutani di Jawa' (Changes in Direction and Alternatives (Perhutani Forest Resources Management in Java)*, ed. Bambang Aji, 1st ed. (Yogyakarta: Aditya Media, 2001).

³ I. Nyoman Nujaya, *'Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Alam dari Perspektif Antropologi Hukum' (Natural Resource Management from Legal Anthropology Perspective)*, 1st ed. (Jakarta: Prestasi Pustaka Publishers, 2008).

⁴ Bambang Eko Supriyadi, *"Hukum Agraria Kehutanan: Aspek Pertanahan dalam Pengelolaan Hutan " (Natural Resource Management from a Legal Anthropological Perspective)*, 1st ed. (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2020).

⁵ Subadi, *Control and Use of Forest Area Land: Towards Environmentally Sensitive, Sustainable Control and Utilisation that Favours People's Prosperity*, ed. JW. Muliawan, 1st ed. (Jakarta, 2010).

⁶ Subadi, 'Decentralisation of Land Management and Utilisation in Forest Areas Java: Between Hope and Reality,' *Mimbar Hukum* 23, no. 1 (2011): 132–49, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22146/jmh.16205>

⁷ Ministry of State Secretary, "Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management," Pub. L. No. 32 of 2009 (2009).

⁸ Iwan Permadi et al., 'Preventing Deforestation: Designing a Public Participation-Based Environmental Agreement Model on Forest Function Shifts', *Indonesian Law Review* 8, no. 2 (2023): 707–52, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/jils.v8i2.68911>

considered essential for restoring the primary function of forests, which is to maintain ecological balance.⁹

Given this context, the present research is significant as it aligns with the development of central government programs and policies, including the Green Economy, the Blue Economy¹⁰, *Asta Cita*, the *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*, and *Makan Bergizi Gratis*, a free nutritious lunch scheme for students. These initiatives are integral to President Prabowo Subianto and Vice-President Gibran Rakabuming Raka's vision for '*Indonesia Emas 2045*' (Golden Indonesia 2045), which aims to achieve eight missions, particularly increasing quality employment and promoting grassroots development to foster economic equality and eradicate poverty.¹¹

The development of a green ecotourism model that commercializes forest areas with abundant local assets, such as nature tourism, educational tourism, culinary tourism, and local flagship products, while avoiding illegal logging and forest destruction and integrating with the *Asta Cita* vision and the *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*, is considered capable of reducing illegal logging and forest degradation. This approach also has the potential to generate employment, alleviate poverty, and enhance the welfare of communities.

The research findings are intended to serve as a scientific reference and provide guidance for local governments, as administrative authorities, and for Perum Perhutani¹², the holder

⁹ Ministry of State Secretariat, "Law No. 41 of 1999 on Forestry," Pub. L. No. 41 of 1999 (1999).

¹⁰ Agung Y. Nugroho & Ktisas Revafiani Dandel Sampe, 'Indonesia's Involvement Efforts in Internationalising Blue Economy Concept: Case Study: Indonesia's Leadership in IORA 2015–2017 Period,' *Global Insight Journal* 5, no. 2 (2020): 1–15, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.52447/gij.v5i2.4168>.

¹¹ Minister of State Secretary, 'Presidential Regulation No. 12 of 2025 on the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2025–2029', Pub. L. No. 12/2025 (2025).

¹² Perum Perhutani was first established under Government Regulation No. 15 of 1972 on Establishment of the State Forestry Enterprise and has undergone

of forest management rights on the island of Java. These findings aim to support the development of forest-edge villages, contribute to the realization of the *Asta Cita* vision, and facilitate the implementation of *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih* in preparation for 'Golden Indonesia 2045'.

The research addresses the following issues : 1) the historical development of programs and activities related to the management of Java's forest areas for community benefit; and 2) the green economy concept and framework in Indonesia, including the visualization and implementation of an eco-friendly and sustainable green ecotourism model to commercialize Java's forest areas without illegal logging or environmental degradation, prioritizing the safety and well-being of future generations.

The study utilizes a mixed-methods legal research design¹³, commencing with normative¹⁴ or dogmatic legal research¹⁵ and proceeding through historical and statutory law approaches. This is complemented by socio-legal research¹⁶, including in-depth interviews with experts in environmental law, forestry law, forestry specialists, forestry officials, Perum Perhutani officials, and local communities residing near the forests.¹⁷ The mixed-methods approach is intended to mitigate the rigidity often associated with normative or dogmatic legal research, which can

several recent amendments under Government Regulation No. 72 of 2010 on the State Forestry Enterprise.

¹³ Tunggul Ansari Setia Negara, 'ormative Legal Research in Indonesia: Its Origins and Approaches'. *Audito Comparative Law Journal (ACLJ)* 4, no. 1 (2023): 1–9, <https://doi.org/10.22219/aclj.v4i1.24855>.

¹⁴ Raul Narits, 'Principles of Law and Legal Dogmatics as Methods Used by the Constitutional Court', November 2005 (2007): 7.

¹⁵ Bethel Uzoma Ihugba, "Introduction Legal Research Methods and Legal Writing", 1st edition (Bethel Uzoma Ihugba, 2020), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.8155048>.

¹⁶ Soetandyo Wignjosoebroto, "Hukum, Paradigma, Metode, dan Dinamika Masalah " (Law, Paradigms, Methods and the Dynamics of Problems)", (Jakarta: Elsam-Huma, 2002).

¹⁷ Subadi Subadi, 'Sustainable Environmental Management and Conservation at Traditional Old Oil and Gas Well Mining Sites in Indonesia: Whose Responsibility?', *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development* 11, no. 12 (2023): 1–20, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.55908/sdgs.v11i12.2115>.

render research articles obsolete following regulatory amendments.¹⁸ Data collection techniques include tracing the history of forest area management in Java, cataloging, compiling, and analyzing regulations and policies relevant to forest management, environmental management, and green ecotourism in the region.

The analysis of legal materials, including inventory, classification, and examination of regulations, applies several contemporary legal theories¹⁹, such as Stufen's theory and the theory of Legislation as the primary framework. This process adheres to the following principles: (a) lower-ranking regulations must not conflict with higher-ranking regulations (vertical synchronization or consistency), and there must be no contradictions among regulations of the same rank (horizontal synchronization or harmonization); (b) observance of the legislative hierarchy; and (c) prioritization of legal certainty.²⁰ Data and information obtained from in-depth interviews were analyzed descriptively²¹ and qualitatively²² to provide a comprehensive description of the green ecotourism concept model. This model involves the commercialization of forest areas without illegal logging or environmental destruction, with the objective of improving the welfare of communities residing near forests and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

¹⁸ Achmad Sodiki, "Arrangement of Land Ownership Rights in Plantation Areas of Malang Regency (Study on Legal Dynamics)" (Airlangga University, 1993).

¹⁹ Richard A. Posner, *Frontiers of Legal Theory*, ed. Richard A. Posner, 1st ed. ("Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: President and Fellows of Harvard" College, 2001).

²⁰ Maria Farida Indrati Suprpto, "Techniques for Analysing Legislation," ed. University of Indonesia (Bogor, Indonesia: Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia, 1997), 2.

²¹ Lauren Stewart, "Definitions, Steps & Examples of Qualitative Analysis" (Atlasti.com, 2025).

²² L.J. Moleong, *Qualitative Methodology*, 1st ed. (Bandung: Rosda Karya, 2002).

Result & Discussion

A. History of the Development of Programs and Activities to Save Forests in the Java Region

Historical records indicate that Perum Perhutani, as the holder of forest management rights on the island of Java, has implemented various programs and policies aimed at conserving forests of Java and enhancing the welfare of the rural community residing near these forests. The following programs have been introduced:

1. *Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Rakyat* (Community-Based Forest Management Model)

Pengelolaan Hutan Bersama Rakyat (PHBM) or Community-Based Forest Management is an initiative program launched by Perum Perhutani as an implementation of Law No. 41 of 1999 and is conducted in accordance with Perum Perhutani Supervisory Board Decision No. 136/KPTS/DIR/2001, dated 29 March 2001. Among the various social programs implemented by Perum Perhutani, the PHBM offers significant benefits to communities living near forests in Java. Although the proportion of forest revenue shared remains limited, the program's objectives are well-defined and, notably, local communities have already experienced tangible benefits from the distribution of forest revenue, including:

- 1) From an economic perspective, the adoption of a Management Regime incorporating a rotational farming system enables the community to cultivate a larger area of agricultural land (farm plots) for *polowijo* crops. This approach contributes to the economic security of communities residing near the forest. Additionally, it can reduce incidents of theft and forest looting, while supporting the preservation of the forest's protective functions.
- 2) From a legal perspective, the relationship between the *pesanggem* (*magersari*) and Perum Perhutani, as specified in

the cooperation agreement, provides legal certainty and clarity regarding the rights and obligations of each party.

- 3) From an ecological perspective, the sustainability of the forest's protective functions, including hydrological and/or orographic roles, in maintaining ecosystem balance is essential. Specifically, the regulatory and productive functions of the forest ensure the continued availability of forest resources and the maintenance of environmental quality.²³

A notable positive development in forest management, particularly after the establishment of the PHBM, is as follows:

- 1) The establishment of an equitable and mutually beneficial partnership (symbiosis mutualism) between the *pesanggem* (*magersari*)²⁴ and Perum Perhutani.
- 2) Forest farmer groups have achieved improved organization within *Masyarakat Pengelola Sumber Daya Hutan* (MPSDH), the forest resource management community.
- 3) Regular meetings among the KTH Members' Council, Perum Perhutani officials, and the Village Head have streamlined communication channels and reinforced institutional capacity.
- 4) A process of behavioral change is emerging, characterized by a strengthened sense of community, mutual support, and solidarity that unites individuals within society.
- 5) Trust in Perhutani officials is gradually being restored.
- 6) Raising awareness of forest sustainability is increasingly recognized as important, particularly through a security system that distributes responsibilities between Perhutani staff and MPSDH management members.

²³ Subadi, '*Pengelolaan dan Pemanfaatan Lahan di Kawasan Hutan (Menuju Pengelolaan dan Pemanfaatan yang Ramah Lingkungan dan Berkelanjutan demi Kesejahteraan Masyarakat dari Perspektif Otonomi Daerah)*' (*Land Control and Utilisation in Forest Areas (Towards Such Control and Utilisation*).

²⁴ *Pesanggem* (*magersari*) is forest communities manage limited land owned by Perhutani or production forest areas through a partnership system. They plant agricultural crops (*tumpang sari*) among forest trees, maintaining forest sustainability while supporting their families' economies.

- 7) The bargaining position of the *pesanggem* (*magersari*) community has been steadily improving.²⁵

On 6 December 2004, a Pilot Forestry Workshop was conducted at the Perum Perhutani Madiun Human Resources Center. The event was attended by eight supervisory board members representing Canada, Malaysia, the Philippines, China, Myanmar, Thailand, India, and Indonesia. This workshop served as a continuation of the Margowitan Model Forest declaration, which involved the regions of Madiun, Ponorogo, Ngawi, Magetan, and Pacitan, and was signed by local government leaders and the Minister of Forestry in early December 2004. As explained by John Notarly, Spokesperson for the Margowitan Model Forest, Margowitan is a pilot project for Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM), up to 500,000 hectares, including 108 (one hundred and eight) hectares of forest area, with the remainder designated as urban forest.²⁶

Margowitan or its future. Its long-term viability and acceptance by both the community groups associated with the forest and the local authorities remained uncertain.

The PHBM operated for approximately three years before being replaced by a new program, Community Forest Management Plus (PHBM Plus), regulated by the Perum Perhutani Board of Directors' Decision No. 268/KPTS/DIR/2007 on Guidelines for Community Forest Resource Management Plus (PHBM Plus).

PHBM Plus introduces several new initiatives, including the vision that "Perum Perhutani aims to be the world's leading tropical forest manager". The mission of Perum Perhutani includes managing tropical forests in accordance with sustainable forest management principles, implementing Social Determinants

²⁵ Subadi, 'Desentralisasi Pengelolaan dan Pemanfaatan Lahan di Kawasan Hutan di Jawa: Antara Harapan dan Kenyataan' (Decentralisation of Forest Area Management and Utilisation Java: Between Hope and Reality)', *Mimbar Hukum* 23, no. 1 (2011): 132-49, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22146/jmh.16205>.

²⁶ Radar Madiun Jawa Pos, "The Margowitan Model of Local Forest Management," 4 December 2004.

of Health management in collaboration with communities, developing a corporate workforce characterized by integrity, authority, and supportiveness, and contributing to both regional development and the national economy.

Achieving this vision and mission requires alignment with the new paradigm of forest resource management, which emphasizes partnership with communities. Empowerment and increased participation of communities and stakeholders in managing significant and strategic forest resources are essential. These elements must be accommodated, facilitated, and fully implemented within a community-based forest management system.

2. *Gerakan Nasional Rehabilitasi Hutan dan Lahan* (National Movement for Forest and Land Rehabilitation)

Gerakan Nasional Rehabilitasi Hutan dan Lahan (GN-RHL), or National Movement for Forest and Land Rehabilitation, is a centralized cabinet sectoral program designed to rehabilitate critical forest and land areas. This initiative operates through the formation of the Environmental Improvement Coordination Team, established under the National Reforestation Program by President Megawati Soekarno Putri on 31 March 2003.

The Coordination Team, responsible for overseeing rehabilitation and reforestation programs, was established within the framework of regional autonomy. Its formation was formalized through the Joint Decision of the Three Coordinating Ministers for People's Welfare No. Kep.09/Kep/Meko/Kesra/III/2003, the Decision of the Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Finance No. 16/M.Ekoin/03/2003, and the Decision of the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs No. Kep.08/Menko/Polhukam/III/2003.

The coordination team is responsible for the following tasks:
a) coordinating the formulation of policies and measures to implement, control, and evaluate environmental improvement through national rehabilitation and reforestation as an investment

initiative; b) formulating technical guidelines for environmental improvement through national rehabilitation and reforestation; and c) resolving issues related to environmental improvement within the framework of national rehabilitation and reforestation.²⁷

These programs include reforestation through forest and land rehabilitation (RHL), which is part of the National Movement for Forest and Land Rehabilitation (GNRHL). This initiative is based on a Joint Decision by the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, the Coordinating Minister for Economy, and the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs. The Minister of Forestry is responsible for accelerating planting activities. The RHL programs aim to accelerate the planting of two million hectares, with priority given to provinces containing extensive areas of critical forest. The government will identify these provinces through consultation with governors, including those in the regions of Java and Madura.

The GN-RHL has not achieved its intended outcomes and is considered a failure. Several factors contributing to the failure of the GN-RHL are outlined below:

- 1) The involvement of numerous government officials, combined with the centralized and sectoral structure of the program, has diminished the role of the Minister of Forestry. Responsibilities have been assumed by officials from other agencies, specifically the three Coordinating Ministers for Finance, Social Welfare, and Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, relegating the Minister of Forestry to a secondary position.
- 2) Local community participation in the GN-RHL has been minimal, and in certain districts, the program has faced outright rejection. For instance, in Jember, the implementation failed because the community controlled the relevant land. In the forest area of Ngawi Regency, the GN-RHL was initially implemented successfully; however, after the

²⁷ Subadi Subadi, 'Conflict over the Control and Exploitation of Old Oil and Natural Gas Wells in Bojonegoro Regency, East Java', *Arena Hukum* 16, no. 1 (2023): 190–210, <https://doi.org/10.21776/ub.arenahukum.2023.01601.10>.

plants matured, they were abruptly felled by unidentified individuals.²⁸

GN-RHL is a centralized, sectoral cabinet program funded exclusively by the State Budget or central government resources. This funding structure has prevented some regions from accessing and utilizing these funds. Vice President Yusuf Kalla acknowledged that in 2006, GN-RHL funds were not utilized by the regions, resulting in the program's non-implementation.

The failure of GN-RHL is attributed to the inappropriate timing of planting and budget disbursement from the central government. As a result, many seedlings died due to water shortages or drought, rendering the program ineffective and inefficient.²⁹

GN-RHL functioned primarily as a symbolic initiative. In several regions, it operated solely as a token program and often served as a platform for officials to gain visibility or as a campaign tool for prospective local leaders. The program's implementation was consistently accompanied by extensive publicity, with the reported number of seedlings-often in the millions- emphasized as the central measure of success.

The long-term sustainability of GN_RHL remains uncertain. It is widely regarded as a continuation of previous unsuccessful reforestation programs and has resulted in several officials facing legal consequences due to allegations of fund mismanagement.³⁰

These programs are primarily project-oriented. Based on the implementation described above, GN-RHL can be assessed as unsuccessful. As a result, the government is compelled to implement the same program in subsequent years, leading to repeated cycles.

²⁸ Jawa Pos, "GN-RHL in the Ngawi Regency Forest Area Felled by an Unknown Group," 12 December 2005, 2005.

²⁹ Subadi, "Decentralisation of Land Control and Utilisation in Forest Areas in Java: Between Hope and Reality," *Mimbar Hukum* 23, no. 1 (2011): 132-49, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22146/jmh.16205>.

³⁰ Subadi, "Three and a Half Centuries of Forest Land Management in Java (A Historical and Legal-Political Approach to the Colonial Period)," *Jurnal Sosial* 10, no. 1 (2009): 1-11.

3. *Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Hutan Bersama Masyarakat (Community-Based Forest Resource Management Model)*

San Afri Awang introduced the *Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Hutan Bersama Masyarakat* (PSDH-BM), or Community-Based Forest Resource Management Model, emphasizing that forests serve at least three functions: a) protection of the natural environment and living organisms; b) provision of aesthetic value to support human well-being; and c) economic support to ensure sustainability and maximize community benefits.³¹ The autonomous management paradigm for critical forest resources presents several advantages, including:

- a) The Watershed Approach (DAS), as an ecosystem and environmental unit, may be integrated into regional planning across sub-districts under the coordination of the provincial government;
- b) Forest management strategies can be adapted to address the socio-economic, political, and cultural contexts of each region;
- c) Regional regulations may be tailored to align with the specific characteristics of each area;
- d) Regions may address social conflicts efficiently by minimizing bureaucratic procedures.³²

Among the advantages previously discussed, the most fundamental is the identification of strategies and management approaches for state-owned forest resources in Java that align with the socio-economic, environmental, conservation, political, and cultural contexts of each region. Within the framework of regional autonomy or decentralization, at least three key aspects are currently observable in local communities and district governments across Java, including the challenge of ensuring

³¹ San Afri Awang and Bambang Adji, 'Change of Direction and Alternatives: Perhutani Forest Resource Management in Java' (*Change of Direction and Alternatives (Perhutani Forest Resource Management in Java)*).

³² San Afri Awang and Bambang Adji.

effective government operations when adequate funding is available.³³

Regional autonomy is perceived to maximize local revenue in two primary ways: First, it rapidly increases local revenue from natural resources, including forests, mining, marine resources, quarrying, oil, and gas. This increase has raised significant concern about the conservation and sustainability of forest resource protection functions. Second, forest resource autonomy may conflict with Perum Perhutani, which, de jure, remains the manager of state forests in Java. Additionally, the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BRLKT) and the Provincial Forestry Service each retain the authority stipulated by applicable laws and regulations.

The PSDH-BM institution outlines three alternative options to support PSDH-BM implementation in Java: (1) Perum Perhutani remains operational while a new forestry agency is established by the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD); (2) Perhutani is dissolved and integrated into the District Forestry Agency; (3) Perum Perhutani continues to operate, but its framework is revised to address the distribution of economic benefits, rights, and responsibilities among Perum Perhutani, the local government, and the community.³⁴

Community-based forest resource management is regarded as a promising model for addressing conflicts between local communities and government authorities. In developed countries such as Germany and Japan, this approach holds a respected position and has proven effective in promoting environmental conservation. Globally, community participation in forest management has transitioned from aspiration to established practice. In contrast, forest management model implemented by

³³ Subadi, 'Desentralisasi Pengelolaan dan Pemanfaatan Lahan Kawasan Hutan di Jawa: Antara Harapan dan Kenyataan' (Decentralisation of Forest Area Management and Utilisation in Java: Between Hope and Reality). According to Achmand Sodiki and I Nyoman Nurjaya, decentralization in the forestry sector is not an easy problem and will remain pseudo or quasi-decentralization.

³⁴ Subadi.

Perum Perhutani and the Forest Concession Rights (HPH) system outside Java have been widely associated with severe forest degradation, floods, landslides, fires, and persistent social conflicts.³⁵⁻³⁶

B. Green Economy: Ecotourism with A Sales-Oriented (Commercialization) Approach to Forest Areas Without Illegal Logging or Damaging

1. Developments in the Concept and Regulation of the Green Economy in Indonesia

There are no universally accepted definitions of the green economy; interpretations vary among scholars, although the core principles remain consistent. Several experts, including David Pierce, Edward Barbier, and Enil Markandia, define the green economy as an economic concept that supports sustainable environmental development policies.³⁷

According to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), a green economy is defined as economic activity that includes, among other aspects, production, delivery or distribution, and consumption of goods and services aimed at enhancing the long-term well-being of society. Importantly, it does not leave significant environmental problems for future generations. UNEP further concludes that a green economy is

³⁵ Subadi Subadi, 'Sustainable Environmental Management and Conservation at Traditional Oil and Gas Mining Sites in Sumur Tua, Indonesia: Whose Responsibility?', *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development* 11, no. 12 (2023): e2115, <https://doi.org/10.55908/sdgs.v11i12.2115>.

³⁶ Subadi, "Conflicts over the Control and Exploitation of Old Oil and Gas Wells in Bojonegoro Regency, East Java."

³⁷ Tarkhanova, EA, et al., "The Green Economy in Russia: A Review of Investment, Growth Indicators and Development Prospects", *Issues of Entrepreneurship and Sustainability* 8, no. 2 (2020): 649–661, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.9770/jesi.2020.8.2> (39).

characterized by low carbon emissions, resource efficiency, and social inclusivity. It is described as short-term economic activity designed to achieve long-term social benefits, improve human wellbeing, minimize or reduce social inequalities, and crucially, avoid burdening future generations with environmental risks or resource shortages.”³⁸

UNCTAD defines a green economy as a program aimed at improving well-being or enhancing quality of life for everyone within sustainable environmental limits. Furthermore, a green economy emphasizes the creation and utilization of opportunities to achieve economic and environmental objectives simultaneously.”³⁹

According to the OECD (2013), a green economy refers to sustainable growth of the global economy with a focus on environmental health. Currently, there is no internationally agreed-upon definition of a green economy; however, several concepts and perspectives have been proposed by different organizations. One widely recognized definition is provided by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which has been referenced in numerous reports by both UNEP and the OECD. Various definitions and perspectives on the green economy include:

- 1) The UNEP (2011) defines a green economy as a system of economic activities concerning the distribution, production, and consumption of goods and services that generate long-term social well-being without posing significant environmental risks or causing ecological scarcity for future generations.
- 2) UNCTAD (2011) defines a green economy as one that enhances human well-being while minimizing or reducing social

³⁸ Wei Pan et al., “Assessing the Green Economy in China: An Enhanced Framework,” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 209, no. 1 (2019): 680–91, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.10.267>

³⁹ Š. Unay-Gailhard, Í. & Bojnec, “The Impact of Green Economy Measures on Rural Employment: Green Jobs in Agriculture,” *Journal of Clean Production* 208, no. 1 (2019): 541–551, https://doi.org/https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/link_gateway/2019JCP.208..541U/doi:10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.10.160.

inequalities and avoiding creating significant environmental problems or risks for future generations, as well as addressing ecological scarcity.

- 3) According to UNCSO (2011), the green economy can be understood as an approach that seizes opportunities to advance economic and environmental objectives simultaneously and with careful consideration.
- 4) The Green Economy Coalition (2011) maintains that the green economy is a resilient system capable of improving the well-being of all people, while recognizing that quality of life is constrained by the earth's ecological carrying capacity.

Drawing on these concepts, the green economy aims to enhance public welfare, ensure equitable opportunities, minimize environmental degradation, and promote economic development that aligns with the environment's carrying capacity. In Indonesia, the green economy framework emphasizes resource-use efficiency, the internalization of environmental costs, poverty reduction, job creation, and the advancement of sustainable economic growth.

The development paradigm is grounded in a resource-efficiency approach, with a strong emphasis on internalizing costs associated with natural resource use and environmental degradation, as well as efforts to eradicate poverty, create decent jobs and ensure sustainable economic growth.⁴⁰

According to the outcome document of the 2012 UNCSO, the Indonesian government defines green economy as follows: "Indonesia, green economy is viewed as a new development paradigm that prioritizes resource efficiency, which will ultimately lead to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Development is carried out using a four-pronged strategy, namely: a) poverty alleviation; b) job creation; c) pro-economic growth; d) environmental friendliness. In general,

⁴⁰ M Firmansyah, "Konsep Derivatif Ekonomi Hijau dan Penerapannya: Tinjauan Pustaka" (Green Economy Derivatives Concept and Their Application: A Literature Review)," *Ecoplan* 5, no. 2 (2022): 141-49, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.20527/ecoplan.v5i2.543>.

ensuring economic growth is one of the key pillars that works in tandem with other elements of sustainable development.”⁴¹

Indonesia's green economy concept “emphasizes efficient resource use, the internalization of environmental costs, and efforts to eradicate poverty, create decent jobs, and ensure sustainable economic growth. Indonesia believes that the green economy is the appropriate approach to achieve Sustainable Development and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Green economy must be implemented comprehensively; costs must be internalized within economic activities, including production, distribution, and the consumption of goods and services at all levels to achieve the effectiveness of sustainable development.”⁴²

The Manila Declaration on Green Industry outlines several key elements from the action framework designed to improve production efficiency and strengthen the competitiveness of the region's industrial economy and trade, including the following:

- 1) Effective use of materials, energy, and water should be achieved through the implementation of sustainable clean production practices;
- 2) Innovation development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (EST) are essential;
- 3) Innovation, clean production, research and development (R&D), training, and education are essential for maintaining and developing environmentally sound technologies that will support the green economy in the region;
- 4) Promoting sustainable green industrial development contributes to poverty alleviation, the creation of decent

⁴¹Ika Yunia Fauzia, 'Urgency of Green Economy Implementing from the Dharuriyah Approach Perspective in Maqashid Al-Shariah', *Journal of Islamic Economics and Business* 2, no. 1 (2016): 87–104, https://doi.org/https://e-journal.unair.ac.id/JEBIS/article/view/1503/pdf_11.

⁴² Arimurti, Danang Johar and Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, 'Analysis of Changes in Criminal Penalties in Regulations on Environmental Protection and Management,' *Indonesian Journal of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development* 2, no. 2 (2023): 289–306, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/ijel.v2i2.40205>.

- employment opportunities, and enhanced social and environmental outcomes for the entire community;
- 5) Developing a sustainable, environmentally conscious business district, fostering a favorable investment climate, and promoting cost-effective clean energy systems, environmentally friendly production, resource efficiency, and low-carbon industries are essential objectives for the area. In this context, the government should formulate practical strategies to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy sources, facilitate the widespread application of appropriate technologies, and support the transfer to clean technologies.
 - 6) The implementation of environmentally friendly and sustainable economic growth strategies should be promoted by integrating consumption and production considerations into national development policies. Addressing the relationship between economic growth and environmental degradation requires improving the efficiency of energy, material, and water production processes as outlined in the Johannesburg Plan;
 - 7) National supply capacity for environmental goods, including the development of recycling and waste treatment industries, should be supported and advanced through appropriate service initiatives.^{43 44}

From a regulatory development perspective, the green economy is constitutionally recognized as an integral component of an environmentally sustainable development program and was guaranteed by:

⁴³ Aloysius Hari Kristianto, 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Concept of a Green Economy for Quality, Ecology-Based Economic Growth', *Journal of Business Economics and Entrepreneurship* 2, no. 1 (2020): 27–38, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.16021/bee.v2i1.134>.

⁴⁴ Vikri Pramana Putra & Januardo Sulung Partogi Sihombing, 'Paradoks Hukum Perdagangan Indonesia: Antara Ekonomi Hijau dan Ekspor Sumber Daya Alam yang Eksploitatif' (Paradox of Indonesian Trade Law: Between the Green Economy and the Exploitative Export of Natural Resources), *Jurnal Juridisch* 3, no. 2 (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.26623/jj.v3i2.12350>.

- 1) The 1945 Constitution, specifically Article 33(4), states: "National economy shall be organized on an economic democracy basis with solidarity principles, fairness, efficiency, sustainability, environmentally friendly, awareness, self-reliance, and by maintaining balance between progress and unity of national economy." Article 33(4) demonstrates that the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia embodies a green orientation, often referred to as the "Green Constitution", which prioritizes the safety and welfare of future generations.⁴⁵ As both a philosophical foundation and a constitutional working ideology, the Green Constitution establishes a robust framework for green economic programs. Consequently, the concept of green ecotourism, which involves the commercialization of forest areas and forest-edge villages without logging or forest destruction, represents a strategic innovation that warrants continued advocacy.
- 2) Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, as further interpreted by Government Regulation No. 22 of 2021 on Environmental Protection and Management Implementation, provides important requirements for environmental safeguarding. Specifically, Article 4 stipulates: "Every business plan and activity that has an impact on the environment must have: a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); b) an Environmental Management Plan (EMP); c) an Environmental Permit (EP)."⁴⁶

While forest sales (commercialization) are not conducted on a large scale, due to the proximity of many forests to protected areas, certain provisions of Government Regulation No. 22 of 2021, Article 5, are relevant:

- a. paragraph (4) Business plans and/or activities located directly near the protected areas referred to in paragraph

⁴⁵ Kristian Skagen Ekeli, 'Green Constitutionalism: The Constitutional Protection of Future Generations', 20, no. 3 (2007): 378, <https://doi.org/DOI:10.1111/j.1467-9337.2007.00366.x>.

⁴⁶ Minister of State Secretary, "Government Regulation No. 22 of 2021 on Implementation of Environmental Protection and Management," Pub. L. No. 22 of 2021 (2021).

- (21), letter b, include the type of business and planned activities where: a. the project site boundary intersects the boundary of the protected area, or b. Scientific considerations show potential to impact the protected area's function;
- b. paragraph (5) Businesses and/or activities shall seek guidance from the Environmental Agency within their authority, attaching a summary of scientific considerations;
 - c. paragraph (6) Based on the scientific considerations in the summary from paragraph (5), the Environmental Due Diligence Team shall review and provide guidance to the person responsible for the business or activity as: a) a business plan and/or activity that affects the protected area's function; or b) a business plan and/or activity that does not affect the protected area's function;
 - d. paragraph (7) The protected areas referred to in paragraph (2)(b) are listed in the annex, which forms an integral part of the government regulation.
- 3) Other sectoral regulations, such as the Forestry Act, the Tourism Act, and the Local Government Act, should not conflict with one another. Their harmonizations should be contingent upon the following considerations:
- 4) The Long-Term Development Plan 2005–2025, the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN, 2015–2020, 2020–2025, 2025–2030), and the Annual Work Plan and Budget Document.

A green economy is defined as an economic system characterized by low carbon dioxide emissions, the creation of an environmentally sustainable environment, conservation of natural resources, and the promotion of social justice. Furthermore, the green economy represents a sustainable economic development model that applies ecological economics principles and aims to enhance public welfare and social equality. The Indonesian government has integrated the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) into its development processes, from planning and budgeting to implementation.⁴⁷

The article has been authoritatively interpreted in several subordinate regulations, including those in the forestry, tourism, local government, and regional autonomy sectors. These regulations have been synchronized and harmonized both vertically and horizontally.

2. Green Ecotourism and the Commercialization of Forest Areas Without Illegal Logging or Environmental Degradation

The green economy concept in Indonesia encompasses eleven sectors: agriculture, construction, urban development, energy, fisheries, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, transport, waste management, and water. The development of these sectors requires adherence to specific prerequisites and preparatory measures to achieve green economy objectives, including the establishment of strategies, institutional frameworks, and sustainability indicators. Strategies for advancing a green economy can be implemented through three primary channels:

- 1) Promoting low-carbon development by reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- 2) Advancing environmental services by expanding the Indonesia Payment for Environmental Services (IPES) scheme, supporting efforts, and enhancing the valuation of natural environmental services; and
- 3) Increasing the sustainable use of biological resources by integrating biodiversity considerations and fostering the development of biological resources.⁴⁸

Within the forestry sector, consensus exists on principles to prepare for a potential global forestry convention. However,

⁴⁷ Fachrudiy Asj'ari and M. Subandowo, "The Green Economy in Supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," in *Proceedings of Conference on Economics & Business "Business Culture Based on Green Economy in Industry 4.0 Era"* (Surabaya: Adi Buana University, 2018), 198–208.

⁴⁸ Bappenas, *Collection of Thoughts on Green Economic Development in Indonesia*, ed. Bappenas Team, 1st ed (Jakarta: Ministry of National Development Planning, 2013).

countries with extensive forest areas, typically developing nations, often oppose the deforestation moratorium advocated by industrialized countries.

Integrating environmental and developmental objectives within a unified framework has provided strategic direction and facilitated the establishment of multinational institutions dedicated to a sustainable future. Recent geopolitical shifts and the rise of new economic powers have intensified conflicts between economic development and environmental protection. These conflicts may be resolved if productive activities are designed to avoid adverse environmental impacts. The green economic development paradigm aims to enhance public welfare while minimizing environmental degradation, ecological scarcity, and social inequality.⁴⁹

The forestry sector plays a central role in the green economy program. However, forests are experiencing rapid clearance and degradation due to excessive logging and land-use pressures from sectors such as agriculture, livestock farming, plantations, reservoirs, and infrastructure development. Ongoing negotiations on forest carbon regimes and the implementation of forest carbon projects at both international and national levels present new opportunities for forest-based livelihoods and income generation. These initiatives also empower local communities to manage forests and forest ecosystems.

In the context of ecotourism, the emphasis is on the potential of sustainable tourism investment as an alternative approach to advancing sustainable development within the tourism sector and facilitating green economic transformation at both national and global scales. Tourism serves as a significant economic driver in numerous countries worldwide.⁵⁰ Given this perspective, tourism

⁴⁹ Dhea Agusty Ningrum et al., "The Green Construction Model in the Construction Industry to Support Sustainable Green Economy," *Jurnal Ekonomi* 13, no. 1 (2024), <https://doi.org/https://ejournal.seaninstitute.or.id/index.php/Ekonomi>.

⁵⁰ Luchman Hakim, *Fundamentals of Ecotourism (Fundamentals of Ecotourism)*, 1st ed. (Malang: Bayumedia Publishing, 2004).

can be defined as a leisure activity designed to provide entertainment for individuals visiting various destinations.⁵¹

Green ecotourism, which promotes forest use without illegal logging or environmental degradation, is a recent development that has garnered prompt attention and is currently being implemented across forest areas in Java. The underlying principle is straightforward: if the programs initiated by Perum Perhutani do not effectively control illegal logging or improve the welfare of communities residing near forests, then the green economy model warrants further development. This approach integrates the potential of nature, forest, culinary, and educational tourism. The green economy refers to the management of natural resources through a new paradigm that transitions from a sectoral to an integrated management approach.⁵²

Urban residents often experience boredom and fatigue due to pollution, traffic congestion, and related urban stressors. Consequently, the trend of returning to nature is understandable and merits a positive reception. Many seek to experience the natural environment of the forest, villages located at the forest edge, local cuisine, regional fruits, and traditional handicrafts, all supported by natural facilities and infrastructure such as culinary services and accommodation.

The concept of selling forests without logging or destruction has emerged from lessons learned through previous unsuccessful approaches. The resulting strategies are as follows:

- 1) Forest-edge communities should be positioned as primary participants in the program. Previous failures demonstrate

⁵¹ Ayu Multika Sari, et al. "Penerapan Konsep Ekonomi Hijau dalam Pengembangan Desa Pariwisata sebagai Upaya Mewujudkan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan secara Lingkungan (Studi Kasus Dusun Kungkuk, Desa Puntan, Kota Batu)" (The Application of the Green Economy Concept in Rural Tourism Development as an Eff, *Journal of Public Administration (JAP)* 2, no. 4 (2014): 765-70, <https://doi.org/https://administrasipublik.studentjournal.ub.ac.id/index.php/jap/article/view/446>.

⁵² Subadi, 'Sustainable Environmental Management and Conservation at Traditional Old Oil and Gas Well Mining Sites in Indonesia: Whose Responsibility? '

that individuals residing near forests should not be regarded solely as objects or a source of inexpensive labor for exploitation.

- 2) Strengthening the role and cooperation with universities is essential, particularly through applied research initiatives focused on the green economy and the expansion of community service programs targeting villages located on the forest edge. These efforts include *Kuliah Kerja Nyata* (KKN) or Community Service Program, *Kuliah Kerja Lapangan* (KKL) or Field Study Program, and lecturer outreach programs conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education, local governments, the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and other donor agencies. Academics encompass lecturers at educational institutions, intellectuals such as humanists and artists, association leaders, ascetics, and other prominent figures in the fields of art, culture, and science. Their role in implementing the Green Economy model involves providing training and outreach to communities, developing research related to green economy-based economic activities, and engaging in community service and research.^{53 54}
- 3) Maximizing and empowering local potential-including local social, economic, and cultural assets, as well as local and flagship products such as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)-is essential.⁵⁵ Achieving this requires support from regional policies established by local governing bodies. The primary

⁵³ Rifda Nabila and Yusvita Nena Arinta, "Developing a Green Economy Model for Indonesia's Well-being." 6th National Seminar on Innovative Applied Research (SENTRINOV)," *Social Sciences and Humanities* 6, no. 2 (2020): 327-35.

⁵⁴ Andini Aisah, et al. "Analysis of the Implementation of the Green Economy in Indonesia," *Prestise*, no. 3 (2023): 1, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15575/prestise.v3i1.30446>.

⁵⁵ Muhkamat Anwar, "The Green Economy as a Strategy for Resolving Economic and Multilateral Issues," n.d., <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31092/jpkn.v4i1S.1905>.

objective of green ecotourism is to motivate policymakers to ensure participation from all levels of government and the private sector, thereby increasing support for green investment.⁵⁶

- 4) The establishment of the *Badan Usaha Milik Desa* (BUMDes) or Village-Owned Enterprises has occurred in the context of decentralization and the regional autonomy program, which have enabled the government to allocate resources more directly to local authorities. Village, as the lowest unit, has become the primary focus of development initiatives, with the principal objective of accelerating community welfare. Forest-edge villages also serve as cooperation partners of Perum Perhutani in the region, participating in a profit-sharing scheme derived from tourist destinations.⁵⁷
- 5) The exercise of discretion in selling forest land, provided it does not involve illegal logging or environmental destruction, encounters significant challenges due to the absence of specific laws or regulations. According to Law No. 30 of 2014 on Government Administration, the use of local discretion by officials may be regarded as a rational solution. Government officials and other legal entities exercise discretionary authority in making important decisions and must ensure that such authority serves its intended purpose. Article 28(2) and (3) require that the exercise of discretionary authority be accountable to a superior official. Individuals who have incurred losses because of a government official's discretionary

⁵⁶ Misbahuddin, "Study on the Potential Optimisation of Leading Products and the Local Economy through Green Economy Principles, Blue Economy, and Tourism Economy in Majene Regency, West Sulawesi Province," *Journal of Business and Entrepreneurship* 7, no. 3 (2018): 296–310, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.37476/jbk.v7i3.331>.

⁵⁷ Alvin Sugeng Prasetyo, "Implementation of Green Economy Policy in 7 Small and Medium-Sized Industry Sectors in East Java," *Journal of Economics and Business* 25, no. 1 (2021): 1–13, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.24123/jeb.v25i1.4717>.

decision are entitled to file an administrative legal action or claim before the Administrative Court.⁵⁸

- 6) The allocation and optimization of the *Alokasi Dana Desa* (ADD) or the Village Allocation Fund budget, which has been considerable in recent years, is essential for effective local governance.

The Green Economy, which involves the sale of forest areas without falling or causing damage, should be supported by bank financing and green banking applications in the future. This approach aligns with Financial Services Authority Regulation No. 51/POJK.03/2017 on Sustainable Finance. Green financing programs were redesigned to ensure that financial services institutions, issuers, and state-owned enterprises prioritize and optimize funding for sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Additionally, this regulation seeks to reduce social inequality, promote environmental degradation, protect biodiversity, promote efficient energy use, and conserve natural resources.⁵⁹

Furthermore, the general public, particularly domestic tourists, is expected to serve as active monitors of the program's implementation. Tourists should be considered as program partners who develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for forest conservation. Implementing a green economy alongside sustainable marketing of forest areas, without illegal logging or environmental degradation, presents significant challenges. Transitioning the livelihoods of communities residing at the forest edge from farming and illegal logging to tourism operations will require considerable time and adaptation.

Obstacles and challenges in implementing programs to market or commercialize forests while preventing illegal logging

⁵⁸ Subadi and Tiara Toersina Oliviarizky, "The Development of Concepts or Theoretical Thoughts on Discretion Based on Investment Acceleration in the Regions", *Mimbar Hukum* 30, no. 1 (2018), <https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.22146/jmh.29222>.

⁵⁹ Lely Savitri Dewi, "The Role of Banking in Supporting the Green Economy through the Green Financing Programme," 1st ed. (Jakarta: Jatinangor: Indonesian Institute of Cooperative Management, 2021), 161–68.

and forest destruction are inevitable and require ongoing attention. These challenges include the following:

- 1) At times, insufficient support from local government for essential facilities and infrastructure, such as access roads, electricity supply, and clean water installations, hinders program implementation.⁶⁰
- 2) The level of education among rural communities residing near forest areas generally remains low. These communities require further education or specialized training and ongoing support to facilitate effective adaptation and participation.
- 3) Forest village communities represent the primary form of social capital. These communities, originally composed of farmers who previously encroached on forest areas, have gradually transitioned into tourism operators, a process that necessitates significant time and patience.⁶¹
- 4) Additional challenges may be addressed over time and can be regarded as valuable experiences that inform the development of future strategies.

During President Prabowo Subianto's administration, the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 12 of 2025 on the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for 2025–2029 (Perpres No. 12 Th. 2025) was enacted on 10 February 2025. This regulation represents the initial phase of the initiative and establishes the foundational framework for achieving the President's vision for the 2025–2029 term, "*Bersama Indonesia Maju, Menuju Indonesia Emas 2045*" or "Together for a Prosperous Indonesia, Towards Indonesia Emas 2045".⁶²

The strategic measures are organized into eight national priorities for medium-term development. These prioritize directly implementing the President's eight missions or *Asta Cita* and are

⁶⁰ Johar Arimurti et al., 'Analysis of Green Open Spaces in Ponorogo Regency Based on Law No. 27 of 2007 on Spatial Planning,' *Indonesian Journal of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development* 2, no. 2 (2022): 199–210, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/ijel.v2i2.76637>.

⁶¹ Subadi, "Conflicts over the Control and Exploitation of Old Oil and Gas Wells in Bojonegoro Regency, East Java."

⁶² Minister of State Secretary, Presidential Regulation No. 12 of 2025 concerning the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2025–2029.

aligned with the green ecotourism concept, thereby strengthening its application:

- 1) Strengthening the national defense and security system and national self-reliance by achieving self-sufficiency in food, energy, water, syariah economy, digital economy, green economy, and blue economy.
- 2) Continue downstream processing and develop natural resource-based industries to increase domestic value added.
- 3) Strengthen the harmonization of life with the natural and cultural environment and increase interfaith tolerance to achieve a just and prosperous society.⁶³

To advance Indonesia's national vision, the government has issued Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2025 on Accelerating the Establishment of *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih* (Inpres No. 9 Th. 2025). This policy aims to establish 80,000 cooperatives and is projected to enhance food self-sufficiency and promote economic equality.

In-depth interviews with stakeholders directly involved in the formation of *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*, including the Regent and several Village Heads from forest-edge communities, indicate that integrating a green ecotourism model with *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih* aligns with strategic objectives. This collective endeavor, grounded in the kinship principle within the economic sector, is positioned to accelerate the realization of prosperity as mandated by Article 33(1) of the 1945 Constitution.⁶⁴

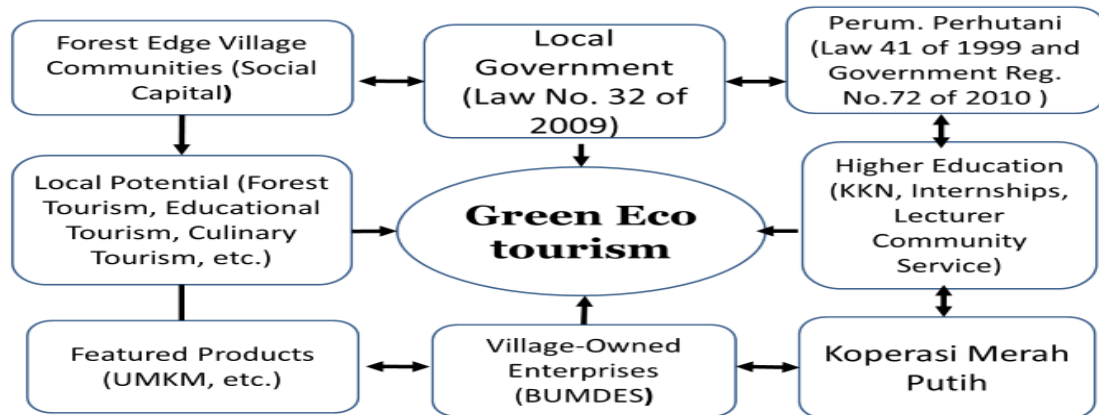
Koperasi Desa Merah Putih is intended to serve as a center for economic and social activities for residents' economic and social activities. This initiative aims to strengthen green ecotourism, particularly in villages located on the forest edge of Java, and to promote the development of self-reliant communities in support of Indonesia Emas 2045.

The conceptual model of green ecotourism is outlined as follows:

⁶³ Minister of State Secretary.

⁶⁴ In-depth interviews with several village heads in forest fringe areas, 8 April 2025.

Figure 1: Visualization of Green Ecotourism



The visual representation in Figure 1, along with findings from in-depth interviews, demonstrates that the institutional duties and functions of the Regent or Mayor in establishing ⁶⁵ *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih* align with point 18 of Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2025. These duties include:

- 1) Coordinating with the Governor on the technical implementation, establishing and managing *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*;
- 2) Assigning local government officials in the cooperative sector to coordinate the establishment, development, or revitalization of *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*;
- 3) Facilitating and assisting village governments and Village Consultative Bodies, along with village community representatives, in organizing deliberations;
- 4) Providing the necessary budget with priority given to supporting the preparation of the cooperative's notarial deed;
- 5) Conducting outreach, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, guidance, and supervision of village governments through the Sub-district Head regarding the formation and oversight of cooperatives.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ In-depth interviews with the Regents of Madiun, Ponorogo and Ngawi, 10 April 2025.

⁶⁶ Minister of State Secretary, Presidential Regulation No. 9 of 2025 concerning the Acceleration of the Establishment of Red and White Village/Sub-district Cooperatives.

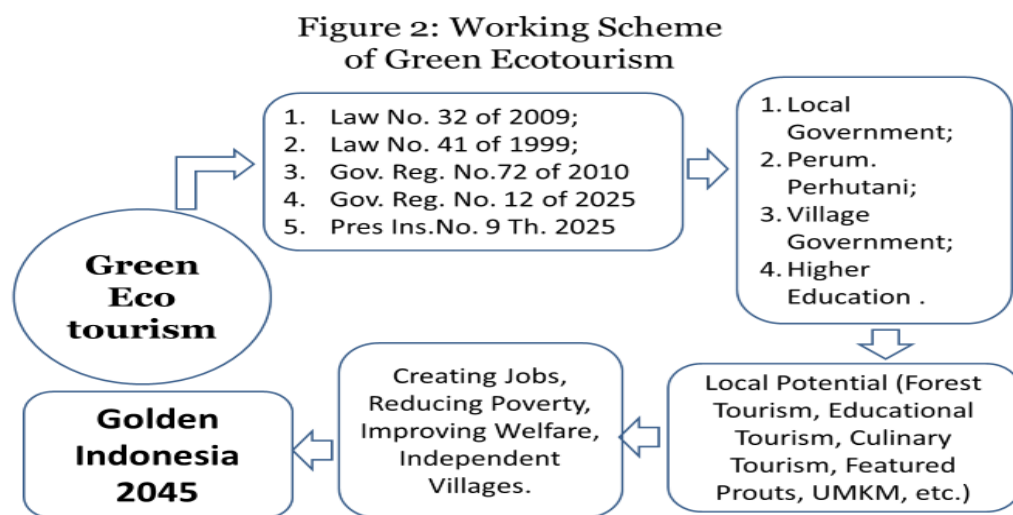
The following section provides additional information on Visualization of Green Ecotourism (Figure 1):

- 1) Decades of experience in managing research and community service activities at the Research and Community Service Institute, including the KKN program, internships, and community service by both students and lecturers, indicate that every village located on the forest edge possesses significant potential. This potential includes forest tourism, culinary tourism, educational tourism, camping grounds, flagship products, and others that can be developed and utilized to support the development of the green ecotourism concept model.
- 2) Forest-edge villages represent a form of social capital and are a vital component in the effort to empower and utilize local potential and strengths. These communities share a common desire to become agents of change, rather than passive recipients, in the development of their respective villages.
- 3) The establishment of *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih* under Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2025, alongside the government's Free Nutritious Lunch (MBG) program under Presidential Regulation No. 83 of 2024, further supports and strengthens the development of flagship products that are integral to the green ecotourism concept model. These initiatives also provide an alternative market for such products.
- 4) The foundation of the green ecotourism concept has already been established and is operational in several regions, although currently on a small scale and in a limited capacity. With continued guidance, training, and mentoring from university academics through research and community service programs, the effectiveness of the green ecotourism concept is expected to increase.
- 5) Perum Perhutani, as a long-standing partner and holder of management rights over forest areas in Java, and the local government, as the administrative authority, will retain their essential functions and roles. By continuing to enhance their capacities as regulators, advisors, and mediators, these

institutions will further contribute to the benefits of the green ecotourism concept.

Direct beneficiaries include those who receive guaranteed security, integrity, productivity, sustainability, and preservation of the forest ecosystem. Local governments benefit through job creation, poverty reduction, improved welfare, and the advancement of self-reliant villages in support of Indonesia Emas 2045.

To support the achievement of Indonesia Emas 2045, the operational model or the green ecotourism concept is illustrated in Figure 2 as follows:



The implementation of green ecotourism is unlikely to be straightforward, consistent with the principle that ‘nothing works in a vacuum’.⁶⁷ Numerous competing interests continue to influence the development of the conceptual model.^{68,69}

⁶⁷ Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, “Relational Social Theories and Legal Pluralism,” *Indonesian Journal of Socio-Legal Studies* 1, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.54828/ijsls.2021v1n1.2>.

⁶⁸ Niklas Luhmann, “The Self-Reproduction of Law and Its Limits,” in *Dilemmas of Law in the Welfare State*, ed. Gunther Teubner, 3rd ed. (Berlin-New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1986), 111–73.

⁶⁹ According to I Nyoman Nurjaya, conflicts of interest in forest area management will continue to be influenced by many conflicts of interest, including: the interests of the central government and regional governments, between the capitalist economy (Perum Perhutani) and the

Green ecotourism is expected to encounter several obstacles and constraints. These include a) insufficient support for facilities and infrastructure from local government; b) level of education within the community, necessitating targeted education, training, and mentoring; and c) the challenge of transforming the professions of *pesanggem* or *magersari*, and *blandong kayu* into tourism practitioners, which requires time, patience, and adaptation. Over time, these challenges may be addressed and can provide valuable experience to refine the conceptual model in the future.

Conclusion

The long history of forest management programs and activities on the island of Java has reached a critical point. Sectoral programs implemented by Perum Perhutani, including PHBM, PHBM-Plus, GN-RHL, and PSDH-BM, have failed to control illegal logging or prevent environmental degradation. Additionally, these initiatives have not improved the welfare of communities residing near forest areas. This failure culminated in the large-scale plundering of forests across the island in 1998.

The increasing tendency of urban communities to seek respite from air pollution, traffic congestion, and related challenges by returning to nature should be recognized as a positive and rational development. The green ecotourism concept model offers a comprehensive approach by integrating various potentials, including nature tourism, forest tourism, culinary tourism, local products, premium products, and educational tourism. These elements are collectively packaged as forest tourism destinations and villages located at the forest edge, representing a shift from a sectoral approach to an integrated, multi-management strategy known as green ecotourism.

Green Ecotourism Concept represents an environmentally friendly approach to sustainable development that commercializes forest areas without resorting to illegal logging or

economy of village communities on the edge of the forest, and others, green ecotourism program must be ready to anticipate them.

forest destruction. This model involves multiple stakeholder groups, including a) Perum Perhutani as a partner and holder of forest management rights; b) the Regional Government as the administrative authority; c) village or forest-edge communities as the primary subjects of green ecotourism; d) investors; e) universities; f) *Koperasi Desa Merah Putih*; g) tourists as beneficiaries. These stakeholders collaborate to maintain, restore, and preserve forest areas by developing green ecotourism initiatives that align with the carrying capacity of their respective environments.

Green ecotourism prioritizes resource use to achieve environmental cost-efficiency, generate employment, alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable economic growth, as mandated by the Constitution of 1945, Article 33 Paragraph (4), and related regulations. However, the implementation of green ecotourism faces several challenges. These include insufficient support for facilities and infrastructure from local governments, a generally low level of public education that necessitates further education, training, and mentoring, and the need for time and patience to transition professions such as *pesanggem* or *magersari*, and *blandong kayu* into tourism stakeholders. These obstacles can be addressed over time and may serve as valuable experience for refining the conceptual model in the future.

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The authors have no vested interests in relation to the research results.

FUNDING INFORMATION

None

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thank you to the Directorate of Research and Community Service of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, Technology, and Higher Education for funding the research, the Institute for Research and Community Service, Merdeka Madiun University, and colleagues, seniors, and juniors who have facilitated and supported the implementation of the research.

HISTORY OF ARTICLE

Submitted : June 1st, 2025

Revised : May 8th, 2026

Accepted : June 13th, 2026

Published : June 30th, 2026