

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Agus and Subiksa (2008) said that peatland is a plot of land whose soil layer is composed of large amounts of organic matter with an organic carbon content of 18% and thickness of more than 50 centimeters. Peat are soils resulting from the accumulation of organic matter that has formed naturally over a long period of time. Organic matter comes from weathering of vegetation that grows around it and peat land comes from deposits of organic matter formed due to the influence of high rainfall and waterlogging. The process of decomposition of peat soil has not occurred completely because the condition of peat is always saturated with water and causes peat soil to have low fertility and pH. Alwi (2006) said that peat soils also play an important role in terms of carbon storage, where the ability to absorb and store is higher than mineral soils.

The important hydrological function of peatlands is to control flooding in the rainy season and increase water reserves in the dry season. In addition, peat is a unique habitat and very important for the diversity of endemic flora and fauna that can only live on peatlands. Peatlands also play a role in global climate stabilization because they are able to absorb and store world carbon stocks significantly. The extent of peatlands in the tropics can provide opportunities to cultivate peatlands commercially, so that peatlands can be used for oil palm plantations. Utilization of peatland for oil palm plantations will provide benefits, but if it is not managed properly it will have a bad impact and cause ecosystem damage, namely drought and fires in the dry season.

Some natural factors or human-made ignorance can be a destructive factor for peatlands. Damage to this ecosystem function can occur in the form of clearing new land by means of illegal burning which not only has an impact on reducing the number of trees in the forest, but also destroys homes for the flora and fauna that live in it. Peat restoration is a long process to restore the ecological

function of the peatland itself and to improve the welfare of the people affected by the degraded peatland. In carrying out peat restoration, the important thing to do is to maintain the water content in it. The government through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) issued a regulation regarding the task of assisting peatland restoration to local governments that own peatlands and there are 7 provinces that are government restoration priorities. The seven provinces are South Sumatra, Riau, Jambi and Central Kalimantan. South Kalimantan, West Kalimantan and Papua.

The most common type of land in Sumber Jaya Village is peat soil with a thickness of >1M and in general, the people of Sumber Jaya Village have oil palm plantations covering an area of 2 ha, where this land is divided into land at the time of transmigration. Sumber Jaya Village, Siak Kecil District, Bengkalis Regency is one of the villages that has a peat ecosystem where this village has experienced a decrease in the area of the peat ecosystem. This is due to the needs of the community and there has been a peat fire in the village. Utilization of peat land in Sumber Jaya Village is carried out by planting agricultural crops which are dominated by plantation crops, namely oil palm.

The main factors for land fires are the lowering of the groundwater table on peatlands, and poor peatland management practices. To anticipate forest and peatland fires, it is necessary to carry out good peatland restoration efforts. The steps taken are by implementing the policies of the Peatland Restoration Agency that have been declared by the government. After the peat land fire disaster that continues from year to year which has a very broad impact on people's lives and the Indonesian economy. Therefore, President Joko Widodo finally took the decision to form the Peat Restoration Agency. The Peat Restoration Agency or BRG abbreviated as BRG was established through Presidential Regulation Number 1 of 2016 which was signed by Jokowi on January 6, 2016 with the main objectives of overcoming and preventing fires on peatlands and restoring peatlands.

In fact, if you look at the hotspots in Riau, especially on peatlands, the performance of the Peatland Restoration Agency is questionable, especially if

you look at the position, duties and functions of the Peatland Restoration Agency which was created to protect and improve the function of peat. It is hoped that by implementing this policy in this area it can function properly.

So based on the description above, the authors are interested in researching with a scientific essay with the title: *"Analysis Of Community Perceptions On The Policy Of The Peatland Restoration Agency in Desa Sumber jaya Kecamatan Siak Kecil Kabupaten Bengkalis."*

1.2 Formulation Of The Problem

Based on the background above, the authors formulate the problems that arise are :

1. What policies have and have not been implemented in the Peatland Restoration Agency?
2. How community perceptions of the policy of the Peatland Restoration Agency?
3. What are the obstacles faced in implementing the Peatland Restoration Agency policy?
4. How to deal with obstacles in implementing the Peatland Restoration Agency policy?

1.3 Purpose Of The Study

Based on the problems above, the purpose of the study is as follows :

1. To find out the policies that have been implemented and have not been implemented in the Peatland Restoration Agency
2. To find out the community perception of the policy of the Peatland Restoration Agency
3. To find out the obstacles in implementing the Peatland Restoration Agency policy
4. To find solutions to the problems faced in implementing the Peatland Restoration Agency policy

1.4 Significance Of The Study

The benefits to be achieved in the research entitled "Analysis Of Community Perceptions On The Policy Of The Peatland Restoration Agency in Desa Sumber jaya Kecamatan Siak Kecil Kabupaten Bengkalis" are as follows :

1. As a reading reference which is expected to help and support the government in efforts to re-wet peatlands in anticipation of land fires that often occur and disturb the community because of their impact.
2. As a scientific reference for writers, friends and the public in general regarding the policy of the Peat Restoration Agency in the construction of canal blocking for wetting hydrological peat areas (peat hydrological restoration) in anticipation of forest or land fires.

1.5 Scope And Limitation Of The Problem

Based on the background that the author has conveyed above and the starting point for existing problems, it is necessary to limit the problems studied so that they are more focused and approach the desired problem. The limitations of the problems studied are knowing the policies and public perceptions of the Peatland Restoration Agency.

1.6 Writing System

The systematics of writing research conducted for research are as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

Is an introductory chapter which contains the title, research background, problem formulation, research objectives, research benefits and problem boundaries.

CHAPTER II : LITERATURE RIVIEW

This is a report and research result, because this chapter also presents the theoretical basis and the theoretical basis that will be used in completing research, both general and specific in nature, consisting of previous research and theoretical foundations.

CHAPTER III : METHODS AND ACCOMPLISHMENT PROCESS

In this chapter the author describes the research implementation method, which consists of the location, time and object of research, types and sources of data, data collection techniques, data analysis methods, types of research, as well as research schedules and budgets.

CHAPTER IV : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter the author will explain the results and discussion after the author conducted research based on the data obtained.

CHAPTER V :CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter the author will explain the conclusions and suggestions of the research conducted.