

# Historical Study of Baluran National Park Conflict

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**Abstract**— This research was conducted based on the problems found in Baluran National Park since 2000. This research aims to provide new views to actors who conflict with the historical problems that have been described. This study seeks to explain the root causes of the conflict, which so far have not found common ground. The conflict comes from the interest differences and needs of the people who live in the conservation area and the manager of the Baluran National Park. This study also explains the types and stages of conflicts that occur. The cause of the conflict is mainly because the community and the management of the National Park do not have a solid cooperative relationship, so each party feels that they have the most right to fulfill their interests.

**Keywords**— Conflict, Types, and Stages of Conflict, Baluran National Park.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The National Park area is closely related to the diversity of life-supporting ecosystems, one of which is Baluran National Park. Conservation areas, including Baluran National Park, have various problems that threaten sustainability of conservation areas. The problems that exist include the overlapping interests of various parties (the manager of the Baluran National Park and the surrounding community), the absence of a common perception regarding the function of the Baluran National Park, as well as the position and role of the Baluran National Park in the eyes of the community and the management (Mangindaan, 1999).

The existence of problems related to the National Park that continues to occur can lead to conflicts between several parties, namely the manager of the Baluran National Park and the community around the National Park. According to Kinseng (2013), conflict is a social relationship between social actors characterized by disputes or contradictions to achieve their respective goals, whether stated directly or indirectly. Conflict can also be interpreted as a harmonious relationship between several parties, which results from differences in values, interests, and actions in the community related to the use and management of the environment (Kausar, 2010).

The conflict management in Baluran National Park in the Situbondo area has been going on for a long time. This conflict is due to the many interests of the actors in it, namely the community, the Baluran National Park, and the government village in utilizing natural resources in the Baluran National Park. If not managed properly, conflict can lead to acts of violence that harm the parties to the conflict materially (Marina and Arya, 2011). Research on historical studies of conflict in Baluran National Park is needed to prevent conflict between parties in Baluran National Park from becoming higher. It is hoped that the actors in conflict can have the same vision and mission in resolving the conflict. The resulting

recommendations are expected to provide conflict resolution to the conditions in the Baluran National Park conservation area.

## II. METHODS RESEARCH

This research was conducted from August to December 2021 in the Baluran National Park conservation area. The method used in this research is the historical method with the following steps: topic selection technique and research plan preparation, heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Conflict Background

One of the causes of conflicts in the conservation area of Baluran National Park is related to historical problems related to the problem of the indigenous people who first occupied the area long before it was designated as Baluran National Park. According to Coser and Oberschall (1978), the cause of this conflict is due to conflict between groups due to a difference or conflict, which includes conflicting values or claims, power, and natural resources.

The residents who occupy the Baluran National Park conservation area are primarily immigrants. This population is distributed through the Anchor port to the Situbondo area. These residents come from Banyuwangi, Madura, and several other areas that now live in the Karangtekok hamlet (the Baluran National Park conservation area). In 1923 the Karangtekok hamlet community already existed, so there is no definite source that can say when the Karangtekok hamlet community occupied the area, long before it was designated as a Baluran National Park conservation area (Source: primary data, 2021).

In 1930 the Director of the Bogor Botanical Gardens, KW. Dmmerman proposed that Baluran be designated as a protected forest area. In 1937 Baluran was designated as a Wildlife Refuge by the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies under the provisions of GB. No. 9 September 25, 1937, Stbl. 1937 No. 544. Then, in the post-independence period, Baluran was re-determined by the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia as a Wildlife Refuge with Decree No. SK/II/1962 dated 11 May 1962. Baluran Wildlife Sanctuary was announced as a National Park on 6 March 1980, which coincided with World Conservation Strategy Day. Precisely in 1997, the appointment of Baluran National Park based on the Decree of the Minister of Forestry No. 279/Kpts-VI/1997 dated May 23, 1997. This stipulation has led to various conflicts between the people living around the area and the manager of the Baluran National Park.

## 2. Stages and Types of Conflict

According to Fisher et al. (2001), conflicts based on their dynamics are divided into three types: latent conflict, emerging conflict, and manifest conflict. Latent conflict occurs when the pressures are not fully visible and developed, and the actors in conflict are unaware of the conflict between them. Emerging conflicts occur when the conflicting parties are identified and acknowledge the existence of a problem or dispute, and there is no way to resolve the developing problem. Manifest conflict occurs when the conflicting actors are actively involved in a dispute or problem, and the actors begin to negotiate to find the middle point of the problem.

The designation of Baluran National Park in 1997 sparked a latent conflict because of different policies in determining the area's status. Many people from outside the region who work as plantation laborers have come with their families since 1920. So the determination of the Baluran National Park area has created a latent conflict.

Emerging conflicts occur along with many people living around conservation areas. The community always depends on the Baluran forest area for their life, which is considered a place with a million benefits given by God. These community activities include grazing, looking for wood, selling wood, hunting, and several other activities. This activity contradicts the management of Baluran National Park, which regulates the area and implements the conservation principles of the area (Primary Data Source, 2021).



Source: Primary Data

The development of emerging conflicts makes people who live around conservation areas with the management of Baluran

National Park undertake negotiations or what is known as manifest conflict. Many efforts have been made to maximize the available human resources, such as cooperation and management. In addition, sit-in activities are often carried out between the community, the village government, and the manager of the Baluran National Park. However, the various efforts' results were unsuccessful and only reached the middle.

Wiranti (2014) stated that the conflict between the community living around the conservation area and the manager of the Baluran National Park occurred after the establishment of the Baluran National Park, namely in 1997 until now. This conflict involves many actors, various interests, and needs. The actors in conflict include the community living around the conservation area, the manager of the Baluran National Park, the Sumberwaru Village government, the Sumberwaru Village Head, cattle investors, and community organizations or political parties.

The interests of the people who live around the conservation area consider that the Baluran National Park area can be used for grazing land, agricultural land, and other necessities of life. Given that the people of Karangtekok have occupied the area before the establishment of the National Park. The activity the community has carried out since a long time ago is grazing, which is currently designated as a conservation area, in contrast to the interests of Baluran National Park, which is to regulate the area and implement the principles of conservation and sustainable use. The Baluran National Park considers grazing activities carried out by the community to disturb wild animals living in the conservation area due to the number of livestock being grazed by thousands of heads every day so that there is competition for feed and disruption of wildlife life (Pudyatmoko, 2019).

The conflict between the Sumberwaru Village government, Sumberwaru Village Head, Cow investors, and community organizations or political parties) are against Baluran National Park. The interest of the Sumberwaru village government is to protect the people who live around the conservation area for humanitarian reasons. The interest of the village head is to protect the rights of settlers as Indonesian citizens should. The interest of cattle investors is to get economic benefits by entrusting cows to people who live in conservation areas with a rowdy system. The interest of community organizations or political parties is to win local and international elections by winning the hearts of people living around conservation areas in exchange for various welfare promises offered.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Conflicts in the Baluran National Park conservation area are due to the many interests of the conflicting actors. Each of these interests is not one vision, so finding a middle point is difficult. In addition, many other interests add to the many problems in the conservation area (Munawar, 2018).

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