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# The Role of Management Institution of the Ciremai Mountain National Park in Encouraging Public Participation

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## **Article Info**

## **ABSTRACT**

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The Ciremai Mountain National Park area is one of the national park areas in Indonesia that must be maintained. The enormous biodiversity and environmental services potential are stored in it. Sustainability of the Ceremai Mountain National Park (TNGC) is an important component in increasing regional and national resilience in climate change mitigation efforts. This study aims to determine the role of the TNGC area management institution in motivating people around the area to actively participate in forests management. The study was conducted through observation. interviews, and literature studies with a qualitative approach. Based on the results of the study it is known that the management of TNGC area is carried out to support education and science, research, activities that support cultivation, culture, and also tourism. In addition, the function of management of conservation areas is based on the conservation of forest natural resources: the principles of protection, preservation, and utilization can be realized and managed optimally, sustainably, and wisely. To support the program, the BTNGC allocates funds and provides other supporting facilities. The involvement of community in the management of the TNGC area had been carried out optimally, seen from the realization of the budget for the management and development of TNGC.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Natural resource(s) is one of the static aspects of national security. In a smaller scope, it determines regional resilience. The management of natural resources (forests) that meet economic, ecological, and socio-cultural aspects is expected to create conditions that are safe from conflicts of interest and also create the welfare of the community, especially the community around the forest area, which in turn will create regional resilience. This will create regional resilience through dynamic synergy between safe and prosperous conditions through democratic community participation. However, the current zoning system for national parks has claimed indigenous forests and also eliminated people living in the area, this has happened long before the concept of a national park. In the past, people who live around the forest area are used to use resources from the forest, in the form of wood, medicinal plants, wild fruits, etc. However, since the zoning system of the national park is established, there are some restrictions for local people to enter the national park area. These restrictions lead to vertical conflicts between communities and the government.

Generally, the community can accept the existence of a national park as a conservation area but does not mean limiting them to taking advantage of the forest. There were differences in perceptions between the government that required the national park area to be sterile from forest benefit takers, and dwellers that utilize forest products to make livings. One of the ways to reduce the conflict was formed a Joint Community Forest Management (PHBM) project formed by Perum Perhutani which began in 2001 with the aim of increasing the roles and responsibilities of Perum Perhutani. Forest village communities and parties interested in the sustainability of the functions and benefits of forest resources through managing forest resources with a partnership model. However, PHBM projects cannot run well in several national park areas. The lack of knowledge of the community is one of the determinants of the succession of the project. On the other hand, the involvement of the community in the context of managing the area is also still low, making it increasingly confusing. The effort that must be made to handle the project is through empowering and fostering community groups. Thus, the community will gain a sense of social solidarity and moral responsibility, so that the risk of conflicts of interest between the community and regional management institutions can be minimized and even muted.

The conflicts that occur between the community and the management of the conservation forest area keeps on happening mostly due to the lack of collaboration with the community around the forest during the process of policy-making or disseminating that are not optimal. Conflict is an integral part of management activities and is a social, political and environmental challenge (Cadoret, 2009). The process of planning, establishing and disseminating national parks as conservation areas that do not involve local communities is also a current challenge for conservation area management. Such conflicts occur in Gunung Ciremai National Park, Mount Marapi National Park, Akatawaje Lolobata National Park, Cendrawasih Bay National Park, and others. As revealed by Cohen and Uphoff emphasized that community participation in the development process consists of: (1) Participation in decision making; (2) Participation in implementation; (3) Participation in benefits; (5) Participation in evaluation (Sumaryadi, 2010). Through this process, the development policies produced can be agreed by all stakeholders involved and respectively have the responsibility for the implementation.

The community still strongly rejects the Ciremai Mountain National Park (TNGC) plan. In Cisantana Village, Cigugur Subdistrict, residents urged the Kuningan District Government and Regional Representative Council (DPRD) to review the Regional Regulation on the Ciremai Mountain National Park and the MoU between the Regency Government and the TNGC Agency due to the conflict between various communities within the village. One of the policies that led to the conflict is the establishment of the Village Conservation Model Institution (LMDK) by the BTNGC. The project used to neglect the obligation of involving the local village government. The LMDK was indicated only by a number of personalities acting on behalf of Cisantana Village, even though none of the residents of Cisantana Village or residents outside the village was actually involved. According to the Village Head of Cisantana in the period of 2013, the formation of the LMDK in March 2011 was very unanticipated due to the lack of involving all communities in the settlements in the villages around the Ciremai Mountain area (the village consists of several hamlets) (Anonim, 2013). Thus, residents disappointment lead to apathetic behaviour. As stated by Nitibaskara (2002), if local governments often established policies that are unpreferred by their people, then the people will take various ways to express their disagreements, from mobilizing the masses to being indifferent to government programs.

Various efforts have been made to find solutions, one of which is by organizing a dialogue session. Dialogue conducted starting from the Kuningan area, up to the provincial level and also with the Forestry Department directly in Jakarta. Stakeholders were involved in dialogues ranging from community representatives, Kuningan Regency Government, NGOs, LPI PHBM, West Java II Natural Resources Conservation Center, West Java Provincial Forest Service, Perum Perhutani both Kuningan KPH and Unit III West Java, and the Secretary General of the Department Forestry, Director of Area Conservation and Head of the Legal Bureau of the Ministry of Forestry. The results of the dialogue finally succeeded in providing a solution in the form of understanding to all parties that the sudden and unilateral appointment of TNGC had caused problems. However, the floor also agreed that opportunities for community participation must be opened since the stage of planning, implementing, building institutions, and monitoring management activities in the national park area. In order to develop institutional programs, it is necessary to include community groups and stakeholders (Mudana, 2017). The concerning TNGC parties initiated a study report to design a model of spatial and land use based on an initiative to become the material of the Kuningan Regency Government to develop a management plan. The management plan designed consists of zoning design, institutional aspects, as well as the overall arrangement of stages regarding the TNGC management plan (Mamat, 2012).

However, the development of community participation in the process of managing TNGC has not been optimal due to the unclear zoning determination and the unformed community-based forest management institutions to date. Communities are still worried about the continuation of their participation in forest management. The people around the TNGC area desired the return of agricultural life in the region by utilizing the land of Mount Ciremai as a natural resource that greatly supports the dwellers around TNGC; especially the vegetable farm.

Therefore, there is a need for collaboration between the area manager and community involvement in the management of the TNGC area. The community should also be fostered and empowered in forest management skill so that economic resilience can be established, in the hope

that they will no longer damage the forest under the guise of fulfilling economic needs. Mobilization and collaboration between national park stakeholders and the community are needed to reduce conflicts of interest that occur in the management of national parks (Winara and Mukhtar, 2011). This study aims to determine the role of TNGC area management institutions in order to motivate communities around the area to actively participate in managing forests.

## **METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative method. The main instrument in qualitative research is the researcher himself. The researcher used a tool in the form of a recorder, notebook, and camera used according to research needs. A recorder is used to record interviews with informants from the BTNGC, the Cisantana community, and experts. Notebooks are used to record observation activities, for example recording information presented by informants outside the interview session, due to the informants undesired to present their identities.

The data collection techniques in this study were in the form of field observations, literature studies, and interviews. Data analysis techniques for this study using the Interactive Model. The researcher used data triangulation by interviewing people in different status positions or with different points of view. Informants for data triangulation, namely the Regional Government of Kuningan Regency were represented by Head of the Forestry and Plantation Service and concurrently academics from Kuningan University, and experts on the history of the establishment of TNGC concurrently Chair of the Ciremai Mountain Regional Partnership Forum.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Role of Managing Institution in Ciremai Mountain National Park

The Hall of Ciremai Mountain National Park (BTNGC red: Balai Taman Nasional Gunung Ceremai) is a technical implementation unit (UPT) of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry. Its main task is carrying out conservation of living natural resources and their ecosystems and management of national park areas based on applicable laws and regulations. The aim of the TNGC management area is supporting research, education, science, activities that support cultivation, culture, and natural tourism, which are valuable outputs to the public. In addition, the function of management of conservation areas based on the protection of life support systems, preservation of germplasm

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and sustainable use can be implemented and managed optimally, sustainably and wisely (Renstra TNGC, 2010).

The switch-function of Ciremai Mountain forest from production forest to conservation forest occurred in 2004. Formerly, the community and Perum Perhutani managed the forest with its program PHBM (Collaborative Forest Management) in the form of production forests. Production forest means the residents are allowed to cultivate the forest and utilize it for agriculture or plantations. Thus, Ciremai Mountain forest switched the status to be the conservation forest, which managed by the Ciremai Mountain National Park Office through its program PKKBM (Management of Joint Community Conservation Areas). This resulted in the reformed regulation, where people are no longer allowed to work on the Ciremai slope, forbidden to cut down trees, and only allowed to utilize non-timber forest products. To the people of Palutungan Settlement, Cisantana Village, perceived the regulations as detrimental since they have been utilizing Ciremai slope as a support for their livelihood. Until now, the right pattern is still sought by collaborating to involve the Cisantana Village community in managing TNGC, because the Cisantana Village community is most affected by the establishment of the TNGC. Good governance greatly influences whether protected areas or national parks can achieve their objectives, are able to share profits and costs fairly, and seek and obtain sufficient support from the community and local stakeholders (Lockwood, 2010). In addition, building social capital in order to engage stakeholders properly is one of the important elements in participatory resource management (Enengel et al., 2011).

The development of the collaborative approach began to emerge as a response to the demands of new or democratic resource management needs, which more recognized the greater expansion of the human dimension in managing choices, managing uncertainty, managing the complexity of potential decisions and building understanding, support, ownership of shared choices. This approach is most relevant to be implemented due to the high motivation of the community to carry out cooperation and political decisions from the government to become a conservation area (Ansari, 2006). Therefore, this collaborative approach is often referred to as a "bridge" to increase resources. According to Wondolleck and Yaffee as a crossing bridge that functions to integrate boundaries limited by geography, interests, and perceptions (Suporahardjo, 2005). According to Straus, the collaborative approach is also known as one of the non-hostile approaches to solving problems and conflicts in multi-party conflicts. The collaborative approach accommodates the interests of all parties so that it is more effective to be applied in handling conflicts. Schultz et al. (2011) explain the effectiveness of national park management can be obtained from the participation of certain stakeholder groups (such as scientists, volunteers, and local residents) simultaneously.

One example of collaboration carried out by institutions in the TNGC region is to provide environmental services to the wider community in the form of tourism and water environmental services. These services have been utilized by the community and local governments in both the Kuningan and Majalengka regions. The usage of the services has contributed significantly to local revenues and the improvement of people's living standards, especially tourism management groups.

Regarding the water environmental services in the TNGC region located in Kuningan, there are 156 potential springs, up to 147 water source points, flowing continuously throughout the year with a sufficient water discharge of around 50-2000 litres/second. The utilization of these water services by the community is for consumption, agriculture, industry, etc. Whereas the hydrological function of Mount Ciremai greatly affects the hydrological system for Cirebon, Indramayu, Majalengka, Kuningan (Ciayumajakuning) and Brebes regions. Companies that utilize their hydrological services from the TNGC area includes PDAM of Kuningan Regency, PDAM of Cirebon City, PDAM of Cirebon Regency, Pertamina, PT. Indocement, and others. The companies that use water services have significantly contributed to the original revenue of the Kuningan Regency.

Regarding the tourism environmental services, its potential in the TNGC area is very unique, due to the diversity of water-based nature tourism. It resulted that most tourist areas offer natural beauty and abundant water environmental services. One of the most interesting things of these tourist objects is the existence of a location that is separated from the Ciremai Mountain area. These tourist objects are small islands scattered and surrounded by community-owned lands. Tourist services that are often visited are hiking trails to reach the peak of Ciremai and also a number of campgrounds which are quite numerous and spread in this TNGC area. In some tourist attractions, the presence of waterfalls and the presence of springs also offer different and unique types of tourism that attract tourists. The management of TNGC has all been conducted by third parties both by community groups and the district government, concerning the fact that before the transition of the function of the area into a national park, third parties have managed these objects.

Currently, some of the benefits of environmental services that have actually provided very broad benefits to the community are in a state of decline in function and benefits. At some points, the spring has decreased the amount of water discharge. This is due to the natural conditions of the Ciremai Mountain region that has undergone changes in the landscape so that it cannot absorb water maximally. One of the damages that occur in the TNGC area is the encroachment of the area in the form of the TNGC area for agricultural and plantation land which has reached  $\pm$  45% of the total area of the TNGC or equivalent to  $\pm$  6,500 Ha of 15,500 Ha. Apart from the encroachment, several disturbances that threaten the sustainability of TNGC are the occurrence of forest fires that occur almost every year, rock mining and timber theft. Forest fires routinely occur only in the north of Kuningan, namely in Pasawahan and Mandirancan Subdistricts and Bantaragung Village in Majalengka.

## Program Hall of Ciremai Mountain National Park with Community

The Hall of Mount Ciremai National Park as an institution managing the Ciremai Mountain National Park has a role as a motivator and facilitator of local communities in management activities in the TNGC area. BTNGC is a technical implementing unit of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry that has full responsibility for managing the forest of the country. The main task carried out by BTNGC is to carry out conservation of living natural resources and their ecosystems as well as the management of national park areas based on applicable laws and regulations. In the 2013 Annual

Report, the BTNGC has a national park management program involving the Cisantana Village community, namely:

## Securing Activities and Forest Protection

The forest protection activities carried out by the BTNGC are carried out routinely every year with the aim that the function of the forest area and its environment can be achieved optimally and sustainably and to maintain and safeguard state rights to the TNGC area. Security and protection activities in the area were carried out in a fairly intensive frequency at locations suspected of being found in forest disturbances/violations.

The climbing security activities required the involvement of many parties, usually local village youth, especially at certain times, for example, August 17 and before the new year. This activity is usually carried out with the managing partner, for the Palutungan hiking route carried out with CV partners. Wisata Putri Mustika and also involves the LSM AKAR (Aktivitas Anak Rimba), and local youth. The role of the BTNGC here is as a coordinator and security facilitator, which forms a forum for the Ciremai Mountain Ascent Community (MPGC), its office just below the foot of Ciremai Mountain to facilitate supervision of all activities in the Ciremai Mountain area, including permits for climbing, namely BTNGC Resort Cigugur in Palutungan Hamlet, Cisantana Village. Aside from this climbing activity, besides being a social activity for national park partners, it also gets added value in the form of money from ticket sales which will later be distributed specifically to Palutungan Village which is considered as compensation for the village farmers who descend the mountain.

The making of this green line is intended to rehabilitate the land as well as for production purposes which means the use of forest products for the community. In addition, the making of green lines also marks the boundaries of the national park and buffer zones. This activity involves ex-farmers working on the Ciremai slope land. The farmers were involved in planting wood on their former land and were even welcome to plant fruit trees as long as they were not cut down and the fruit trees were left to grow without maintenance so that when it was time to harvest, the farmers could take the results. Before becoming a national park area, farmers from Palutungan Settlement usually utilize the Ciremai slope to plant avocado trees, since it grows well on the slopes of Ciremai. Up to date, avocado trees are allowed to grow and prohibited to be cut down. The purpose of this activity is the rehabilitation of land and restoration of water absorption; thus farmers are welcome to plant fruit trees but must be inserted by woody plants, with the aim of rehabilitating the land.

## Forest Fire Control

The forest control activities carried out by the BTNGC are aimed at minimizing the incidence of forest fires that occur in the TNGC area, especially in the dry season. Activities carried out by involving the community, for example, strengthening forest fire control institutions through the establishment and training of the Fire Care Community (MPA) and the Forest Police Partner Community, this activity is the regeneration and strengthening of the capacity of human resources for forest protection, involving communities around the national park area, specifically Cisantana Village. The MPA group amounts to around 450 people who are representatives of villages whose territory borders on the BTNGC area, which is prone to fire. In this case, the

BTNGC provides supporting equipment for forest fire control and supporting equipment for monitoring forest fires.

BTNGC collaborates with the Cisantana Village community in the field of environmental education regeneration, the Community of Fire Care (MPA), conservation regeneration. The activity involved the Cisantana Village community because the potential of Cisantana Village was greater than in other villages. Cisantana Village has unique natural and cultural tourism potentials, for example, Balong Cigugur, Arts and Culture in Paseban, Goa Maria, Palutungan Campground, Curug Ciputri, and even culinary tourism processed from cow's milk.

Based on Burra Charter, a form of conservation activity is maintenance, repairs that include restoration and reconstruction, maintaining sustainability, restoration and adaptation. Forest fire control and environmental education activities carried out by the BTNGC and the community is included in conservation activities which include maintenance, repair, and maintaining the sustainability of Ciremai forest. The BTNGC activity program is an activity to preserve environmental carrying capacity with the aim of preserving the ability and utilization of living natural resources and their ecosystem in a harmonious and balanced manner. So that the conservation activities carried out by the BTNGC and the Cisantana community aim to support the utilization of the Ciremai forest resources for the welfare of the people living around the TNGC area.

The implementation of the BTNGC activity program should be a collaborative tool for managing TNGC. In accordance with the opinion of Daniels and Walker that collaborative is an innovation of the theory and practice of public participation. Where the government and BTNGC provide activity programs and the Cisantana community participates in these activities. Collaboration in natural resource management has a principle that is almost the same as participation, where both of them involve the role of many parties to achieve common goals. But in collaboration, it emphasizes management principles that are orderly and institutionalized, including planning, implementation and evaluation. Collaboration is also one way to resolve conflicts of interest in the management of national parks based on methods or management systems. Collaboration has clearly divided the rights, obligations, duties and roles of each of the parties involved in the management of the national park.

## Support of The BTNGC in A Program of Activities Involving The Community

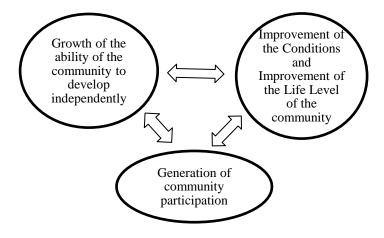
According to Cohen and Uphoff, participation in the implementation of development will include participation in resources, participation in administration and coordination, and participation in programs, including financing for development. The BTNGC as the management institution of Ciremai Mountain National Park provides facilities and support in the form of activity programs and funding to support management activities. For example, in the utilization of water services, the BTNGC collaborates with the Cisantana Village community because of its proximity to springs in the TNGC area. BTNGC builds supporting facilities in the form of clean water storage tanks and transmission pipelines.

Community participation in development aims to achieve a condition that is better than before. Community participation will accommodate what is the needs and desires of the community so that it will increase equality among all parties to reduce poverty and improve development. This is in line with Blair's statement, which states that public participation will provide representation, in the form of aspirations for input in taking public policies that will affect all parties. The purpose of participation according to Blair is to achieve a better life, increase economic growth so that it will reduce poverty and the feeling of equality among all parties. This sense of equality will then become a community motivator to continue to play an active role in development.

## The Role of The BTNGC Involves The Participation of The Cisantana Village Community

Based on the narrative from the Cisantana Village community, they were very little involved in TNGC management activities. Intensive community participation only occurs when the initial establishment of TNGC. Hoofsteede argues that participation can be interpreted by taking part in one or more phases of the processor in this case taking part in a development process in a stage or more. Participation means involving local communities in developing plans and activities that are designed continuously from making agreements to decision making at various levels and with all stakeholders (Chambers, 1992). Participation also means that there are activities that need to be participated in by the community held by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the government which include concrete actions (Indrawan et al., 2007).

Participation is the realization of a person's awareness that he is part of a society that must play an active role in developing the nation and their country with concrete actions. Community involvement will be the guarantor of a process that is designed and can run well and correctly. Participation opens a field that can stimulate the application of democracy but does not eliminate the possibility that actors or groups of actors who are very influential in this matter are decision makers who influence management projects (Héritier, 2010). Community involvement is also an important component, so that there is no opportunity for manipulation in the development process, providing the added value of trust when formulating plans with more contributions will be better, and finally in order to increase the level of community awareness and skills in politics, 2011). An explanation of the concept and implementation of community participation in development can be summarized in the following figure:



Picture 1: Community Participation in the Development Process Source: Ndraha in Sumaryadi (2010) (has been reprocessed by researchers)

One of the community participation in government programs is through the management of natural resources (forests) carried out by the Cisantana Village community that is the involvement of citizens in making decisions regarding the use of public resources. The participation process of the management of Ciremai Mountain National Park uses theories from Cohen and Uphoff, which consist of: involvement in decision making, implementation, accepting and utilizing results, and monitoring and evaluation. The involvement of the Cisantana Village community in managing TNGC can be a benchmark for the development of Kuningan Regency, because when the village of Cisantana was able to solve the problem of rejection of TNGC. The recommended participation in the community will increase the level of concern for the problems faced in their environment and have the confidence that they can contribute to overcoming them. Solving the problems that occur in Cisantana Village through community participation will be an example for villages around the TNGC area that have similar problems. Besides, increased skills and facilities need to be carried out so that it would not be a barrier to run the program in the development of local communities (Yuni and Suarthana, 2018). Based on this, it is expected to create a supportive atmosphere for the development of Kuningan Regency.

For now, there is no new program that involves the community to participate in TNGC management, while the community is still involved in TNGC management activities programs. Based on the survey of researchers, in terms of management of tourism services, one example of community participation in the management of TNGC can be seen at the Palutungan campground. This Palutungan bumper tourism is now well organized, managed jointly by the community of Dusun Palutungan, CV. Wisata Putri Mustika, facilitated by BTNGC and local government. Stalls belonging to local residents have been relocated in one place, and the parking lot has been arranged. Ciputri waterfall is neat without losing its trademark, but it is more improved in terms of beauty and safety for visitors. This arrangement is expected to be able to attract tourists, which in turn can increase revenue for the LMDK of Cisantana Village.

Involving the Cisantana Village community in managing TNGC is still ongoing, even though the activities are still gradual and not yet comprehensive. Activities involving the Cisantana community are only limited to shifting the focus of the community so that they do not penetrate the Ciremai forest, for example with assistance such as the previously mentioned such as dairy cattle. These activities were carried out in stages so that the Cisantana community adapted to new livelihoods. Livestock assistance is expected to be able to make the Cisantan village community independent. But what happened in the field was the difference in perceptions of the management of national parks that had not been fully agreed upon by the Cisantana community. So the task of the government and BTNGC is to provide an understanding of the TNGC conservation area clearly to the community. This opinion was also strengthened by Mr. Sanusi Wijaya (Chair of the Ciremai Mountain / FKKGC Regional Partnership Forum), that in the TNGC area a TNGC management partnership forum had been formed whose membership involved communities around the TNGC area, NGOs, the private sector, local governments, even people from BTNGC participated. The forum is a collaborative forum for managing TNGC, where one of its tasks is to

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conduct assessments and inventory the aspirations of the people living around the TNGC area. These aspirations then became input for the government to make further policies. The purpose of forming this forum is to help the economy of the communities around the TNGC area to be independent without having to enter the forest. So this forum supports the existence of TNGC. So that FKKGC can be a mediator of conflicts between community interests and BTNGC.

Social forestry places people in and around forests as the main actors of forest management. Communities in and around forests with life directly in contact with forests, feel the impact of the existence of forests directly, both in positive and negative terms. Thus it is reasonable to place in and around the forest as the main partner for forest management towards sustainable forests. Because according to Marfai, the success and failure of reforestation (community forests) cannot be separated from the participation of local communities (Fauzi, 2012).

## Benefits of TNGC for The People of Cisantana Village

The management of conservation-based TNGC has a positive impact that, although indirectly, can be beneficial in the future. Based on the observations of the researchers, the former land cultivated by farmers in Palutungan Village is now turning into a forest again. The land that was once neatly cared for, has now turned into shrubs. The shrubs are due to the purpose is conservation so that the local community is no longer allowed to cut down trees but can still grow crops. Planting is of course in a different way, which is allowed to grow without maintenance, and then it can be taken when the time is harvested. That is one form of forest utilization by involving farmers in Palutungan Settlement, who had previously worked on the land in Ciremai forest. Conservation of Ciremai forest does not mean closing people's access to utilize the Ciremai forest products completely, but the permitted use is limited to collecting forest products, for example, non-timber crops, forest honey, and others. The rate of forest degradation began to diminish with the establishment of Ciremai forests to become TNGC. The agricultural land on the slopes of Ciremai began to be rehabilitated, now it has started to become greener and the temperature on the Ciremai slope is becoming colder.

Tourism and water environmental services can contribute to the local community. For example, water discharge Conservation of Ciremai forest has produced a considerable amount of water discharge, can be used as business land, for example, sold to bottled water factories. It can even be a regional income for Kuningan Regency, by selling Mount Ciremai water to Cirebon Regency. For Cisantana Village tourism services, activities at Palutungan campground, for example: setting up stalls, managing parking, guide services, including ticket sales, more or less can help the economy of Cisantana Village community. In accordance with the characteristics of Cisantana Village, regional development in terms of agro-tourism can provide many opportunities for the community to participate in its management.

All policies that involve the community in the development process then are concluded to have strong legality and is supported by many parties, not only by one of the authorities. One of the keys to understanding the dynamics of national parks today is also by paying attention to the local socio-political aspects, namely negotiating by inviting the community as a whole so that changes that might affect local communities around the national park are not a problem (Purwanto, 2005). If the policy-making process always involving the community, then the

community will perceive ownership and responsibility in its implementation and can receive success or failure when the decision is implemented. Ciremai's decision to become TNGC has received much public opposition, but when it has been running for ten years, the community has accepted the existence of TNGC. The community is aware of the importance of conservation, but the government must not ignore the existence of communities that have been handed down from generation to generation from the natural environment and forests around their homes.

The determination and management of conservation areas are done to maintain the sustainability and sustainability of natural resources to be utilized in order to meet human needs in the present to the future. According to MacKinnon, there is a new concept of conservation, which is preserving and utilizing it in a wise way, not just protecting and eliminating opportunities to utilize resources. Currently, Indonesians are still referring to the concept of a conservation area that has been stated in Law No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Natural Resources and their Ecosystems (Winara and Mukhtar, 2011). The concept of conservation must be well understood in order to avoid mismanagement of forest areas since it is possible that there are parties who take refuge behind the policy to exploit forest natural resources.

During the current regional autonomy, forest management is carried out by involving local communities as the main actors; or known as the concept of social forestry (Permenhut II, 2004). Social Forestry is intended to improve the welfare of the community and preserve the forest by emphasizing the community which resides in and around the forest, to become the main managers of resources. People who think that this utilization will eventually take over ownership of the forest in general. However, the community will indeed be better in terms of managing forests and their resources compared to the government, especially in terms of managing and making policies for forests that are located near their homes. The community becomes a more suitable actor to utilize the forest economically if compared to individuals (Chomitz, 2007). To the community, forests not only have ecological significance but are social, cultural and economic. Since forests are one of the most important parts of civilization, the community cannot be separated from forest areas. Their culture develops simultaneously with all-natural components, so they have a high sense of ownership over the existence and sustainability of the forest.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Hall of Ciremai Mountain National Park as an institution that manages the Ciremai Mountain National Park has created a program of activities involving the community of Cisantana Village, namely protection activities for forest security, forest fire control, and utilization of water and natural tourism services. To support the program, the BTNGC allocates funds and provides other supporting facilities. The aim of the BTNGC activity program is to assist in the improvement of the Cisantana Village community economy, as well as facilitators and mediators of interested parties in TNGC, namely the private sector, NGOs, and the community. Until 2013, the BTNGC activity program had been carried out optimally, seen from the realization of the budget for the management and development of TNGC.

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