

# The Cooperation Relationship between West Bali National Park Hall and the Buffer Villages in the Conservation of Nature and Creation of Jobs

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## ABSTRACT

West Bali National Park (WBNP) is a nature conservation area that has native ecosystems, managed with a zoning system for research, education, science purposes as well as to support cultivation, tourism, and recreation. Its goal is to preserve biological natural resources and their ecosystems, thus the WBNP Hall established a cooperative relationship with 1 urban village (Gilimanuk Village) and 5 buffer villages (Blimbingsari, Ekasari, Melaya, Sumber Klampok and Pejarakan villages). In the working area of the WBNP Hall, there are several strategic issues that have developed, one of which is the illegal logging of production plants in Production Forests which has significantly affected the balance of the ecosystem as a whole which can lead to a decrease in the quality of potential biological natural resources. The problems are: 1) What is the cooperative relationship between the WBNP Hall and the buffer villages in the effort to conserve nature? 2) With the existence of WBNP, can job opportunities for local communities be created? The objectives of the study: to analyze the cooperative relationship between the WBNP Hall and the buffer village in an effort to conserve nature; and to identify and analyze the benefits of WBNP in an effort to create jobs. This study uses empirical research methods with a sociological approach. Data were obtained from primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected using an interview technique and secondary data were collected using recording and documentation methods. The data were analyzed qualitatively using legal argumentation. The research results are presented descriptively. The conclusion is the cooperative relationship between the WBNP Hall, and the buffer villages has been stated in a written agreement to support WBNP. WBNP has been able to create jobs, but the use of local labor has not been maximized.

**Keywords:** Buffer villages, conservation of nature, jobs, relationship, WBNP Hall.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

One of the tourism object areas on the island of Bali is the West Bali National Park (WBNP) which is located in Jembrana Regency. The WBNP area has very high biodiversity potential, including: the potentials of flora and fauna, land and ocean ecosystems and various other potential environmental services. WBNP is a Nature Conservation area that has a native ecosystem, managed by a zoning system, which is used for research, education, science purposes as well as to support cultivation, tourism and recreation. Its goal is to preserve living natural resources and their ecosystems and to fulfill their functions as a protected area for a life support system, a preservation system of the diversity of flora and fauna species and the sustainable use of living natural resources and their ecosystems.

In the working area of the WBNP Hall, there are several strategic problems and issues that have developed. Along with the increasing growth in the economy, human population and demand for biological resources, the problems that arise in the location of the WBNP area and its surroundings are also increasing. The strategic problems or issues faced in the WBNP area and its surroundings, among others, are: there are still cases of forest fires in the WBNP area which are also caused by the WBNP visitors such as in public places; illegal logging of production plants in Production Forests which has significantly affected the balance of the ecosystem as a whole, which in turn can lead to a decrease in the quality of potential biological natural resources; the potential of the WBNP as well as easy accessibility from various sides. From there a problem arose which became an important issue in WBNP, which is especially the use of natural resources (flora and fauna) of WBNP, such as taking *rencek* (dried twigs of wood) to be used as firewood (Krisna, 2018).

Of the many problems or issues that have occurred in the WBNP area, the focus of the present research is the case of illegal logging of production plants in Production Forests which has significantly affected the balance of the ecosystem as a whole, which can then lead to a decrease in the quality of potential biological natural resources as a tourist attraction and which, of course, will also affect job opportunities in the tourism sector. In order to ensure that the utilization of living natural resources can take place accordingly and sustainably, it is necessary to take conservation measures so that living natural resources and their ecosystems are always maintained and able to achieve balance and are attached to development itself. Based on the background of the problem, the present researchers are interested in conducting research entitled "The Role of the Buffer Villages towards West Bali National Park Hall in The Conservation of Nature and Creation of Jobs in Jembrana Regency." From the background described above, the problems of the research are formulated as: 1) What is the cooperative relationship between the West Bali National Park Hall and the buffer villages in the effort to conserve nature? 2) With the existence of the West Bali National Park, can job opportunities for local communities be created?

### B. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

- 1) To examine the cooperative relationship between the West Bali National Park Hall and the buffer villages in an effort to conserve nature and
- 2) To identify and analyze the benefits of WBNP in creating job opportunities.

### C. Research Method

The type of research used in this study is empirical legal research. The problem approach used is a sociological approach. Sources of data are:

- 1) *Primary Data*, data collected through field research, which was conducted at the West Bali National Park Hall, Ekasari Village and Blimbingsari Village, and Jembrana Regency-Bali Province.
- 2) *Secondary Data*, data collected through library research.

*Secondary data*, according to Waluyo (2001), comprise: a) Primary legal materials, that is to say binding legal materials in the form of statutory regulations relating to the issues to be studied, such as 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and Their Ecosystems, Government Regulation Number 28 of 2011 concerning Management of Natural Areas and Nature Conservation Areas and Government Regulation Number 108 of 2015 concerning Amendments to Government Regulation Number 28 of 2011 concerning Management of Natural Areas and Nature Conservation Areas. Secondary legal materials are legal materials collected from textbooks, scientific journals, opinions of scholars having relation to the object of this research study. Tertiary legal materials refer to supporting legal materials that provide instructions and explanations for primary legal materials and secondary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries and the internet which are also used as sources of materials for this research, as long as they contain information relevant to the object of this research study (Soekanto & Mamudji, 2003).

The research was conducted at the West Bali National Park Center, Ekasari Village and Blimbingsari Village, Jemberana Regency-Bali Province. This research was conducted for 6 months. The research applies Sampling and Population Techniques. In this case, the determination of the subject of this study was carried out using a purposive sampling method: researchers used their own judgment armed with sufficient knowledge about the population to select sample members, with the hope that the data obtained would provide a lot of direction to conclusions (Sumardjono, 2001).

The techniques applied in collecting data needed in this paper are: 1) For primary data collection, interviews were conducted with informants, which were the Board of Managers for West Bali National Park; 2) For secondary data collection, a document study was carried out using a card system, that is to say after collecting all the necessary materials, notes on things considered important for this research were taken (Soekanto & Mamudji, 2003). The card system used in this study is a quote card to take notes of the names of the authors, book titles, and pages and to quote things that are considered important in order to answer the problems in this study.

The application of the literature review technique is also supported by the use of the snowball technique, that is to say, by finding as much legal material as possible through collecting references from one literature to another. The data that have been collected, both from the results of field research and from the results of library research, were then combined, selected, classified, and identified and arranged in a systematic manner. Then, the data were analyzed by applying a qualitative data analysis method-a method of data analysis conducted by grouping and selecting the data collected from field research according to their quality and truth and then linked them to the theories obtained from the literature study, so the answers to the problems raised in this study by providing a legal argument are obtained. Next, evaluation techniques were also applied. This is done to determine whether the data were correct or not,

agreed or disagreed, true or false, valid, or invalid, which was done by the researchers on a view, proposition, statement of formulation of norms, decisions, both those listed in the primary materials and those listed in the secondary legal materials. The results of data analysis are presented descriptively by describing and explaining the conditions or facts that have occurred regarding the cooperative relationship between the West Bali National Park Hall and the buffer villages in the effort to preserve nature reserves as well as to create jobs.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Cooperation between the West Bali National Park Hall and the Buffer Villages in an Effort to Preserve Nature

One of the buffer villages in Jembrana Regency is Ekasari Village. When viewed from a geographical perspective, the Ekasari Village has a strategic position because it is located on the main route connecting Warnasari Village, Blimbingsari Village and Melaya Village. Ekasari Village is one of 9 villages and 1 urban village located in the Subdistrict of Melaya, with an area of 1,520.44 Ha. It is a highland area of 60 m above sea level, located with a village orbital distance of 7 km from the sub-district capital, 23 km from the regency capital, and 117 km from the provincial capital of Bali. The boundaries of the territory are in the north it is bordered the State Forest; in the south it is bordered the Village of Nusasari; in the east it is bordered by Warnasari Village and Tukadaya Village; and in the west it is bordered by Blimbingsari Village and Melaya Village.

Economic development in the Subdistrict of Melaya, especially in Ekasari Village, is carried out through three main pillars, such as Agriculture or primary, Industry or secondary and services or tertiary. However, currently the role of the agricultural sector is still dominating. This condition is caused by the development of industry and services, including the tourism sector, which is progressing very slowly, so the agricultural sector is still the leading sector. The agricultural sector in a broad sense is a sector that still dominates the economic structure in Ekasari Village. It is predicted that every year there will be a decline. The decline may be caused by the decreasing agricultural land due to the conversion of agricultural land in the village. In an effort to increase and maintain agricultural production in the midst of shrinking land, an intensification pattern can be applied. The pattern will be able to run and achieve the expected results if it gets attention and support from the community as a whole. Therefore, there is a need for the Jembrana Regency Government's policy to provide various subsidies and assistance in the form of motivation to farmers and even providing bailout funds to Cooperatives to increase yields in the agricultural sector. The agricultural components include rice, corn, peanuts, soybeans, and green beans. Rice is one of the primary sources of food whose existence has fluctuated so far. The fluctuation is caused by seasonal factors. Apart from rice, as the main crop, secondary crops and horticulture crops have also been developed.

In addition, Jembrana Regency, Bali Province, saves natural beauty that has the potential to become a tourist destination, especially because of its unspoiled condition. For the tourism sector, tourist destinations that can be favored and need to be developed in the Village of Ekasari in the future include religious tourism (Pura Dalem Pingit, Pekraman Village of Ekasari, Maria Palasari Cave and Palasari Old Church), Palasari Dam tourist destination, Kampoeng Palarejo tourist destination, and Ekasari Village Agrotourism.

Apart from serving as a place of prayer, the Church and Maria Palasari Cave are also used as tourist destinations that have been visited by almost all Catholics in Bali and even outside Bali, as well as the general public. It is a religious tourism located in Ekasari Village. The Old Church and Maria Palasari Cave are located at a distance of 1 Km from the Ekasari Village Office. In Palasari there is also a Dam that can irrigate rice fields in the Village of Ekasari, Warnasari Village and Nusasari Village which can also be used as fishing tourism destinations by the people.

Likewise, Kampoeng Palarejo is one of the newest tourist destinations (selfie spots) in Ekasari, precisely in Banjar Palarejo. In addition to its unique place, the area has many spots that visitors can use to relax and take pictures. Visitors who have visited this place are not only local people, but many foreigners have also visited it.

In addition, in Ekasari Village there is also Cocoa Agrotourism. Agrotourism comes from the words agro and tourism, which when combined refers to packing trips or tourist activities or vacations to plantation or agricultural tourism spots, such as visiting Cocoa Agrotourism places. This cocoa garden has the potential to be a tourist attraction. The interesting fact to develop from this tourism facility is that in the future, visitors will be able to see the process of making chocolate from on farm to processing. Visitors not only listen to the presentation but also enjoy the fun of harvesting, fermenting and making chocolate directly (Bali Tours Club, 2018).

Besides Ekasari Village, there is also Blimbingsari Village in Melaya District, Jembrana Regency (Fig. 1). The territorial boundaries of this village are to the north it is bordered by Hutan Negara; to the south it borders Malay Village; to the east it borders Ekasari Village; and to the west it borders Hutan Negara. Blimbingsari village has developed into a tourist village which is now often visited by tourists, both foreign tourists and domestic tourists. Various facilities are available in the destination area, especially hotel accommodations such as homestays as a place to stay when vacationing in the West Bali tourism area. To enter the village area, there is a kori agung (gateway) at the entrance and exit of the village. On the gateway is written “Rahajeng Rawuh Ring Blimbingsari,” which means “Welcome to Blimbingsari.”



Fig. 1. Blimbingsari village gateway. Source: (Club, 2022).

In Blimbingsari Village there is a church building (Fig. 2). Initially the church was in a typical European style, but since the earthquake occurred in 1971 it was damaged, and then the building was overhauled and redesigned by adopting the design of Balinese temples and ornaments. Balinese traditional carvings are beautifully engraved on the church building, including Bale Kukul building which is the hallmark of temple buildings in Bali. Kukul itself is a piece of wood with a hole in the middle, hung on a building called Bale kukul. The kukul is rung by hitting it to call the people to come.



Fig. 2. Church. Source: (Club, 2022).

The church building adopting the design of the temple building looks unique and attractive, thereby people call it the *Pura Gereja* (Church Temple). The beautiful blend and acculturation of cultures signifies that religious harmony in Blimbingsari Tourism Village in particular and in Bali in general is well maintained, mutual respect, mutual honour and mutual tolerance between religious communities. That is because differences are beautiful, and all are cohesive within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and *Bhineka Tunggal Ika*. Uniqueness of culture offered by Blimbingsari Village serves as a special attraction for tourists. Based on the analysis, conditions of important values of area and strategic issues in the conditions of each important value of the WBNP area as well as other developing problems/issues, the WBNP Office determines the vision, mission and management objectives listed in the Long-Term Management Plan (*Rencana Pengelolaan Jangka Panjang*, abbreviated as *RPJP*) for 2020–2029. WBNP’s vision is “Becoming the Center for the Master Plan for the Empowerment of Communities of Buffer Villages to West Bali National Park for 2020-2029, representing the Biodiversity of the Island of Bali through Management Based on Harmonious Relationships of Nature, Social, and Culture for the Interests of Sustainable Utilization.” The missions carried out are:

- 1) To bring into reality the area as a safe and ideal habitat for the Balinese Curik, Balinese mammals, and other wildlife.
- 2) To improve the management of natural tourism and the use of other environmental services.
- 3) To develop a center for education and research on conservation for the benefit of knowledge and public awareness; and

## 4) To maintain the Effectiveness of West Bali National Park Management.

Based on the vision and mission, the objectives of WBNP Hall management for the next 10 years include: (1) To increase the Bali Curik bird population in the wild by 100% from the 2019 baseline; (2) To maintain the existence of 9 Balinese mammals; (3) To improve the governance of natural tourism and environmental services; and (4) To maintain the effective management of the West Bali National Park area. In order for the vision, mission and management objectives to come into reality, support and participation from all parties are needed, including from all components of the communities of the buffer villages to WBNP village—Urban Village of Gilimanuk, Melaya Village, Ekasari Village, Blimbingsari Village, Sumberklampok Village and Pejarakan Village (*Rencana Induk Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa Penyangga Taman Nasional Bali Barat Periode 2020 s/d 2029*, n.d.).

The important value of the WBNP area is the potential of areas which are the main factor for area protection and are the main indicators of the success of area management. Based on the WBNP management mandate, several important values of the WBNP area include:

- 1) Endemic animals—the Bali Curik bird (*Leucopsar rothschildi*).
- 2) Bulls (*Bos javanicus*).
- 3) Nine (9) Balinese mammals—Pangolin (*Manis javanica*), Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*), Hedgehog (*Hystrix branchyura*), Forest Cat (*Felis bengalensis*), Civet (*Felis marmorata*), Deer (*Cervus timorensis*), Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Dugong (*Dugong-dugong*), and Dolphins (*Dolphinidae*),
- 4) Coral reef ecosystems.
- 5) Diversity of ornamental fish.
- 6) Hawksbill turtle nesting sites (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).
- 7) Habitat for 2 types of sharks (*Tricaenodon sp* and *Carcharinus sp*) (*RPTN (Rencana Pengelolaan Taman Nasional) Bali Barat 2019 s/d 2029*, 20 C.E.).

Problems having been occurring in the WBNP natural tourism area include:

- a. The presence of inorganic waste that enters the WBNP area both naturally and brought by visitors.
- b. Visitors' awareness of WBNP conservation efforts is still quite low, thereby tourism activities can still have a negative impact on WBNP areas, for example littering, coral damage due to being trampled by visitors, and others.
- c. Nature tourism activities in WBNP can change the original nature of animals and result in wild animals in the area due to the habit of visitors feeding wild animals.

From the results of an interview with I Gede Puja (*Perbekel/Head of Ekasari Village Management*), it is found that in general West Bali National Park (WBNP) Hall has a lot of direct contact with the buffer village (Ekasari Village) in nature conservation. Nevertheless, WBNP has more direct contact with community groups such as Subak Pusaka, and the Pipa Tirta Wahana Giri group. For cocoa, WBNP also has a direct relation in the purpose of the use of water originating from within the WBNP area or with the pipe group. Regarding the rights and obligations of Ekasari Village as a buffer village in WBNP management, Ekasari Village is allowed to use water in the WBNP area which is managed by the Pipa Tirta Wahana Giri Group. Permits for the construction of waterways for *subak* and pipe groups are also granted. Meanwhile, the obligation is the Ekasari Village community is required to participate in preserving the forest in the WBNP area. The presence of WBNP allows job opportunities to be created, as there are people who are employed in the security sector, namely as a Forest Guard (one person). The presence of WBNP also enables the improvement of community welfare. The benefits obtained are the use of water from the WBNP area which is used by the community to meet their daily needs, as well as for the benefit of *subak* in irrigating rice fields and for plantation purposes of the communities.

In the interview, I Made John Ronny (*Perbekel of Blimbingsari Village*) stated that the relationship between the West Bali National Park (WBNP) and the buffer village (Blimbingsari Village) in nature/forest conservation efforts has been growing very well. This is because the West Bali National Park once provided a program to the buffer village (Blimbingsari Village) in forest conservation, namely a kind of socialization regarding the conservation of the West Bali National Park Forest area and in that program Blimbingsari Village was one of the tourist villages. Being a tourist village, the village certainly has an attraction, and one of them is the existence of a Tracking route in the WBNP area. The existence of the Tracking route requires the Blimbingsari Village to participate in maintaining the cleanliness and sustainability of the forest in the WBNP area.

Regarding the rights and obligations as a buffer village, in the management of WBNP, especially with the existence of a Tracking route, when there are tourists who want to visit and cross the Tracking path that enters from the buffer village (Blimbingsari) crossing the WBNP area, Blimbingsari Village is required to continue to coordinate and take an entrance ticket from WBNP every time a visitor orders an entrance ticket in the village (Blimbingsari).

If there is a violation of the cooperation agreement between the WBNP and the buffer village, there are no written rules for resolving the violation, but both parties usually resolve the problem by means of deliberation to reach consensus. If through deliberation and consensus the problem cannot be resolved,

the matter will be handed over to the competent authorities such as law enforcement, which is taken over by the forest police, and if there is sufficient evidence, then the case is brought to the realm of law which ends in court.

### B. *The Existence of West Bali National Park in Relation to Job Opportunities for Local Communities*

Although it is not the main tourist destination in Bali Province, Jembrana Regency has natural beauty that can be juxtaposed with the potential to become a domestic and foreign tourist destination, especially because of its unspoiled condition. For the tourism sector, tourist destinations that can be favoured and need to be developed in the Village of Ekasari in the future include religious tourism (Pura Dalem Pingit, Pekraman Village of Ekasari, Maria Palasari Cave and Palasari Old Church), Palasari Dam tourist destination, Kampong Palarejo tourist destination, dan Ekasari Village Agrotourism.

In an interview with I Made John Ronny (Perbekel of Blimbingsari Village), he stated that the existence of the West Bali National Park (WBNP) has allowed job opportunities for the community to be created. For example, WBNP provides opportunities for the communities of the buffer village (Blimbingsari) as tour guides on the Tracking route in the WBNP area. Even, there are 4 members of the local community who were recruited as workers at the WBNP Office, assigned to be managers in the WBNP forest area. As for some of the data we obtained from the village regarding the names of community members who have worked as forest managers in the West Bali National Park area, serving as POLSUS (Forest Special Police officers) are: Anak Agung Putu Subagia (retired); Anak Agung Nyoman Harta Satha (retired); I Made Tadius (retired); I Ketut Joni Alexander (Still actively working as manager of the West Bali National Park).

Regarding the number or percentage of the population in the buffer village (Blimbingsari Village) who were recruited/worked in the management of the WBNP, it was still very small. However, with the Tracking route, the community members are involved in participating in the management of the natural tourism sector to become tour guides in the WBNP forest areas. The existence of WBNP could improve the welfare of the community in the buffer village (Blimbingsari) who have really felt the benefits. In terms of natural resources, such as the use of springs (Grojogan) WBNP could help irrigate rice fields, community plantations and allow water to become a source of daily needs for the community in the buffer village (Blimbingsari Village).

## III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of this research, it can be concluded that the relationship between the buffer villages and the West Bali National Park (WBNP) Hall in an effort to conserve nature is needed as a synergy to support the sustainability and development of WBNP as a center for education, recreation and as a tourism area. The cooperative relationship between the buffer village and the WBNP Hall is based on a cooperation agreement between the two parties. However, it is undeniable that even though there has been cooperation based on a written agreement between the buffer village and the WBNP Hall, it is still possible for some violations to occur, which may be committed by residents in the vicinity, such as illegal logging. However, such cases that have occurred in the past were resolved amicably.

The existence of WBNP also has a positive influence on the surrounding community, such as the residents getting benefits in the form of irrigation obtained both for personal interests and for community plantations. Regarding employment obtained by the existence of the WBNP, the number of local community members recruited to become WBNP employees is still very small, but other benefits can be obtained, such as community members becoming tour guides, the existence of a Tracking route which also provides fortune for surrounding communities.

The suggestions to be proposed are: 1) in its management, WBNP should be able to involve more of the surrounding local communities to be recruited as WBNP employees. 2) The community should also participate in preserving nature for the sake of the continuity of the West Bali National Park.

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