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CONTRIBUTION POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN SUPPORTING RESILIENCE FOOD IN AREA TAHURA WAN ABDUL RAHMAN REGISTER 19 GUNUNG BETUNG - LAMPUNG PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Study This study contribution political environment in support resilience food in Park area Forest Raya (Tahura) Wan Abdul Rahman Register 19 Mountain Betung, Province Lampung. An area of 22,240 Ha This face challenge complex Where 86% its territory has inhabited and managed by public local from 47 government area. Study use method qualitative and quantitative simple with sample 30 respondents from Community Source Great Which consists of out of 10 member group farmer, 10 worker public non-members group, And 10 person divided to 5 manager Tahura WAR And 5 apparatus village/sub-district. Results study show that community perspective outskirts forest Still very oriented on increased income without considering condition land. Group farmer generally No realize that perspective politics and government still attached although his status as cultivator land. Political environment still considered blurry by farmer And tend ignore perspective political And government. This research give contribution to understanding dynamics political environment in context food security in conservation areas.

Keywords: Political environment, resilience food, Tahura WAR, conservation, public local

INTRODUCTION

The Wan Abdul Rahman Register 19 Gunung Betung Grand Forest Park (Tahura) in Lampung Province is a conservation area that plays a strategic role in maintaining ecosystem balance and supporting food security for the surrounding community (Herwanti et al., 2023). This 22,240-hectare area not only functions as the lungs of the regional world but also provides a livelihood for thousands of families living in the surrounding area. However, the reality is that 86% of the total area is inhabited and managed by local communities from 47 different regional governments, creating its own complexities in managing this conservation area (Putri, 2024).

The phenomenon of massive occupation of this conservation area creates a dilemma

between environmental conservation interests and the economic needs of local communities. On the one hand, the Tahura WAR area has a crucial ecological function in maintaining hydrological balance, biodiversity, and regional climate stability (Safira et al., 2023). On the other hand, the community that has lived in this area for decades relies on agricultural and plantation activities as their primary source of livelihood (Susanti et al., 2020). This situation creates a complex environmental political arena, where various interests converge and interact in the context of natural resource management and food security (Utami et al., 2024). Environmental politics in this context not only refers to formal government policies but also encompasses the social, economic, and cultural dynamics occurring at the grassroots level (Erlina et al., 2023).

The Sumber Agung community, one of the communities residing in the Tahura WAR area, has a unique pattern of interaction with its surroundings. They develop adaptation and negotiation strategies with various stakeholders to maintain access to natural resources while ensuring their survival. This negotiation process involves various dimensions, from formal legal aspects to informal practices that develop at the community level (Putri, 2024; Herwanti et al., 2023). The problems faced in the Tahura WAR area are not limited to ecological aspects alone but also encompass very complex socio-political dimensions. The bias between conservation interests and the welfare of local communities is a central issue that requires a holistic and sustainable approach. Existing environmental policies tend to be weak and populist, failing to address the true root of the problem. This is exacerbated by weak coordination between stakeholders and minimal community participation in decision-making processes related to conservation area management (Erlina et al., 2023; Utami et al., 2024).

In the context of food security, the presence of communities in the Tahura WAR area has enormous potential to contribute positively to local food production while maintaining environmental sustainability. However, realizing this potential requires a deep understanding of the dynamics of environmental politics at the local level. This study aims to examine how environmental politics contributes to food security in the Tahura WAR area, focusing on analyzing local community perspectives, levels of participation in development, and environmental political awareness. Through a comprehensive empirical approach, this research is expected to contribute to the development of a sustainable and participatory conservation area management model (Safira et al., 2023; Erlina et al., 2023).

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed methods approach, combining simple qualitative and quantitative methods, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the contribution of environmental politics to food security in the Tahura WAR area. Quantitative aspects were used to measure community knowledge, participation, and awareness, while qualitative aspects were used to understand socio-political dynamics at the community level. A similar approach has proven effective in studies of post-disaster food security frameworks (Clay et al., 2023) and the interaction between environmental and food factors in vulnerable communities (Gondwe et al., 2025). Study implemented in Village Source Great, Subdistrict Building Arrangement, Regency Pesawaran, Province Lampung, Which is Wrong One community Which reside in area Tahura Wan Abdul Rahman Register 19 Mountain Betung. Election location This based on on consideration that Sumber Village Great is representation from condition public Which stay in area conservation with level occupation Which tall. Study implemented during 6 month, from January until June 2025, with stages survey introduction, collection data primary, and analysis data. Population study is all over public Which reside in area Tahura WAR, specifically which is incorporated in Community Source Great. Technique taking sample Which used is purposive sampling with criteria Which has set previously. Sample study amount to 30 people Which consists of from three category respondents:

a. 10 members of the farmer management group
b. 10 non-member community workers
c. 10 people divided into 5 WAR Tahura managers and 5 village/sub-district officials

Distribution sample This intended For get perspective Which diverse from various stakeholders involved in the management of the area and agricultural activities within it. A structured questionnaire was used to measure the variables of environmental knowledge, participation, and political awareness, lasting 45–60 minutes per respondent. In-depth interviews were also conducted with key informants to capture socio-political nuances. This model aligns with a mixed methods design, where interviews support the interpretation of numerical context (Clay et al., 2023). Documentation includes policies, reports, and secondary statistical data. Participatory mapping involves communities to obtain an overview of land use patterns and their temporal changes. Documentation includes policies, reports, and secondary statistical data. Participatory mapping involves communities to obtain an

overview of land use patterns and their temporal changes.

Table 1. Instrument Study And Variables

Variable	Indicator	Number of Items	Scale
Public Knowledge on Natural Resources Sustainability (PK)	Understanding of conservation concepts, knowledge of environmental impacts, ecological awareness	5	Likert 1–4
Public Participation in Forest Development (Par)	Involvement in programs, contribution of labor/thoughts, local initiatives	4	Likert 1–5
Environmental Political Awareness (EPA)	Understanding of policies, political participation, environmental advocacy	5	Likert 1–4

Test validity is carried out with use Pearson correlation Product Moment with criteria r count > r table ($\alpha = 0.05$). Results test validity show that all items question in third variables have mark significance < 0.05, Which signify that all items is valid. Test reliability using Cronbach's Alpha show mark > 0.7 For all variables, Which shows a good level of internal consistency. Analysis data quantitative done with use statistics descriptive For describe the characteristics respondents And level variables Which researched. Analysis correlation And regression simple to use For know connection between variables. Analysis data qualitative done with content analysis and thematic analysis techniques to identify patterns that emerge from interview and observation data.

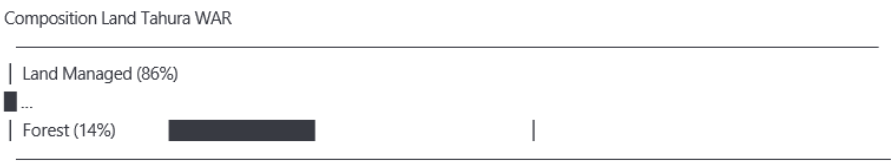
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics Respondents And Condition Location Study

The Wan Abdul Rahman Register 19 Gunung Betung Nature Reserve covers 22,240 hectares with an occupancy rate of 86%, making it a region rife with conflicts of interest between conservation and economic interests (Dwiartama et al., 2024). This situation indicates that pressure on the conservation area is very high due to the domestic activities of local communities (Kristiansen et al., 2023). This requires environmental policy interventions that are not only protective but also adaptive to the socio-economic conditions of the communities that depend on the land (Kusuma et al., 2023). From an environmental political perspective, this area has become a real contested space, where state interests in environmental conservation collide with the economic interests of local communities. According to Indradjat et al. (2023), when power structures fail to align conservation and community economic interests, horizontal conflict and environmental degradation become

inevitable. This situation aligns with field observations, which indicate weak oversight of land use changes and suboptimal community participation mechanisms in conservation area governance. Furthermore, land ownership that is not formally legal but has been managed for decades creates policy ambiguity that complicates law enforcement and conservation efforts. An ecological justice-based approach, as proposed by Putri et al. (2020), is relevant to adopt. This approach considers not only ecological aspects but also the rights of local communities to a just and sustainable livelihood.

Picture 1. Composition Use Land in Tahura WAR



Condition This make area Tahura WAR as object political environment Which complex, where there is a tug of war between conservation efforts and the economic needs of local communities. Tolerance to existence public in area conservation in One side give room life for public, However in side other potential cause damage environment Which more wide if not managed properly.

Level Knowledge Public about Sustainability Source Power Natural

Research results show that the level of knowledge of the Sumber Agung Village community regarding natural resource sustainability remains low, with an average score of 1.8 on a scale of 4 (Gunawan et al., 2022). This low score indicates limited community understanding of conservation principles such as the importance of maintaining land cover, controlling erosion, and sustaining resources (RECOFTC, 2023).This lack of knowledge results in community land management practices that are still not environmentally friendly (Kheynad et al., 2025). Activities such as land burning for garden clearing, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and exploitation without reforestation are commonplace (Kristiansen et al., 2023). This aligns with a study by Maharani et al. (2023), which emphasized that low ecological knowledge is directly proportional to destructive agricultural practices that can accelerate environmental degradation. Without increasing community knowledge capacity, conservation areas will continue to be threatened with further damage (RECOFTC, 2023). Efforts to increase public knowledge must be carried out through adaptive and contextual environmental education programs (Kheynad et al., 2025). Such programs need to be developed collaboratively using a participatory approach, as

recommended by Sulistiawati et al. (2021). Direct community involvement in material development, locally based outreach methods, and integration with traditional wisdom can increase the effectiveness of awareness-raising and strengthen the relationship between the community and natural resource conservation.

Table 2. Level Knowledge Public Village Source Great

Responden	Skor	Responden	Skor
1	2,2	16	1,6
2	1,2	17	2,2
3	2,2	18	1,4
4	1,0	19	1,6
5	2,6	20	2,2
6	2,0	21	1,8
7	1,6	22	2,0
8	2,4	23	2,0
9	1,6	24	2,0
10	1,2	25	2,0
11	1,2	26	2,4
12	1,4	27	1,8
13	1,4	28	1,8
14	1,8	29	2,0
15	1,8	30	1,8

Average Score: 1.8

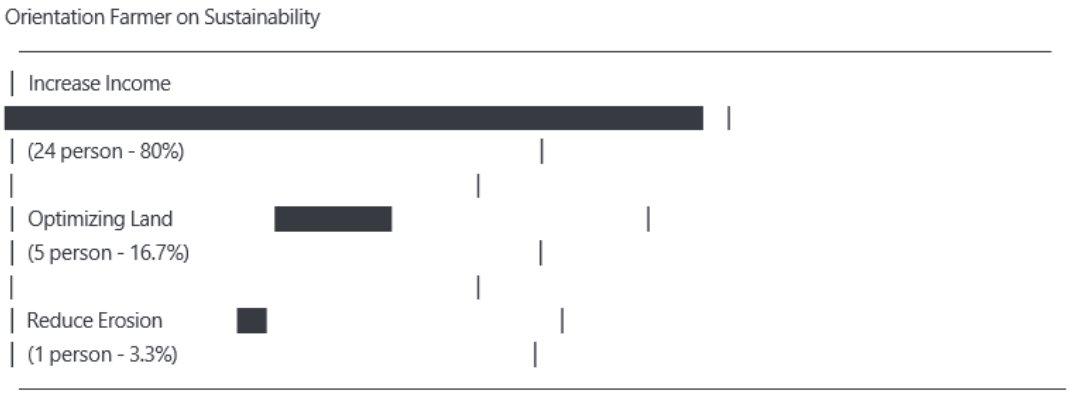
Low level knowledge public about sustainability source Power nature is in line with findings that orientation public Still very focused on aspect economy term short. Public tend prioritize improvement income without consider long-term impacts on environmental conditions. This is reflected in land management practices that No notice principles conservation, like burning For opening land, use pesticide excessive, And exploitation source Power without regeneration.

Orientation Farmer to Sustainability Environment

The results show that the majority of farmers (80%) are primarily focused on increasing income (Dwiartama et al., 2024), while only a small proportion (16.7%) focus on optimal land management and erosion reduction (3.3%). This fact reflects that short-term economic motivations still dominate community behavior, even though they live within conservation areas. This condition indicates an imbalance between the conservation goals of the area and the more pragmatic socio-economic interests of the community (Gunawan et al., 2022). This disparity in orientation is exacerbated by limited access to environmental education and supporting facilities, such as sustainable agriculture training. A study by Putri et al. (2020) shows that in many cases in Indonesia, farmers' orientation toward sustainability can only change through program interventions that integrate conservation with improved

welfare (Roslinda et al., 2022). Without this, conservation efforts will directly conflict with communities' economic survival strategies, which continue to expand their land use. Therefore, it is crucial to encourage a shift in farmer orientation through educational approaches and incentives. Approaches such as agroforestry, conservation farming systems, or community-based sustainable farmer training can be solutions, as outlined by Kusuma et al. (2023). This transformation requires time and cross-sector partnerships so that farmers do not feel disadvantaged by conservation obligations but instead see them as opportunities to improve their quality of life (Kheynad et al., 2025).

Figure 2. Orientation Farmer on Sustainability Environment



Findings This indicates existence gap Which significant between objective conservation Tahura area WAR with orientation practical public Which reside in inside. Domination economic orientation term short potential cause degradation environment Which sustainable If not immediately addressed through more effective education and community empowerment programs.

Level Participation Public in Development Forestry

The average community participation score in forestry development was 3.0, indicating community involvement in several activities, such as farmer group meetings, mutual cooperation, and coordination with the Tahura management. However, this participation remains procedural and has not yet reached substantive participation that encourages initiative and ownership (Roslinda et al., 2022). Unequal participation rates also indicate differences in motivation and perception among residents. Some groups, such as farmer group administrators, are more active due to their access to information and program benefits. Meanwhile, marginalized groups, such as farm laborers and sharecroppers, tend to be passive. Lestari et al. (2022) state that successful participation in forest management is largely determined by the level of social inclusion, equitable access, and transparent

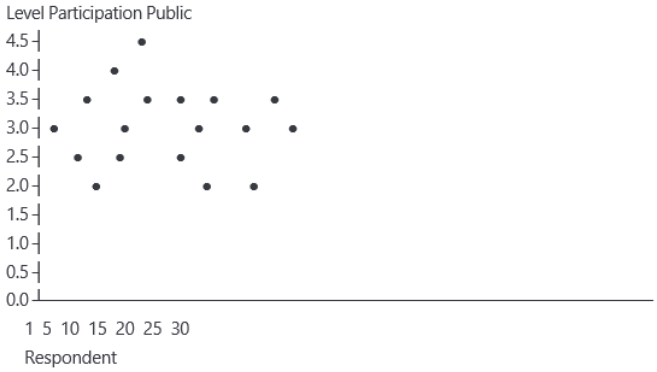
communication (Kheynad et al., 2025). Therefore, the participation model used in forestry development must shift toward transformative participation. Wicaksono et al. (2023) suggest the need for capacity building, involvement in planning, and transparency in governance to increase meaningful participation. This way, communities will not simply participate in activities but will collectively influence the direction of forestry policy.

Table 4. Level Participation Public Village Great Source

Responden	Skor	Responden	Skor
1	3,0	16	3,5
2	3,5	17	3,75
3	2,5	18	4,0
4	3,25	19	3,75
5	3,75	20	2,25
6	2,5	21	2,0
7	2,75	22	3,75
8	2,75	23	2,0
9	3,0	24	3,0
10	2,25	25	2,25
11	2,0	26	3,75
12	2,5	27	3,25
13	3,5	28	3,25
14	3,5	29	3,25
15	2,75	30	3,0

Average Score: 3.0

Picture 3. Distribution Level Participation Public



The distribution of participation levels shows considerable variation among respondents, with the lowest scores 2.0 And highest 4.0. Matter This indicates that there is segment public which has level participation which tall in programs development forestry,

However also available group Which Still own level participation which low.

Analysis Source Power Man, Resilience Food, And Political Environment

The pragmatic orientation of the Sumber Agung community is reflected in their attitude toward land status. For them, legality is not the primary issue; the most important thing is that the land can be cultivated and the yield can be harvested (Dwiartama et al., 2024). This attitude stems from extensive experience with the Community Forestry (HKm) program since the early 2000s, which has fostered a sense of informal ownership of cultivated land. However, this perspective poses risks to long-term conservation and food security goals. When communities focus too much on productivity without considering ecological sustainability, land degradation becomes an inevitable consequence (Kristiansen et al., 2023). Hidayat et al. (2020) noted that one cause of crop failure in conservation areas is farmers' weak adaptation to ecological challenges, such as seasonal changes and soil erosion. The proposed solution is to strengthen ecosystem-based management with active community involvement. Dewi et al. (2022) emphasize the importance of socio-ecological integration in conservation area management, through a participatory and educational approach (Kusuma et al., 2023).

Dynamics Political Environment in Context Local

In general, the community in Tahura WAR lacks adequate environmental political awareness. Their political activities are limited to administrative matters, such as participation in elections or aid data collection (Roslinda et al., 2022). Awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens living in a conservation area remains very low. Budiono et al. (2021) state that this condition is a consequence of weak political literacy and minimal dialogue between area managers and the community (Mulyana & Kurniati, 2024). The transformation from encroachers to forest guardians has been very slow. Some empowerment programs, such as farmer group training or participatory reforestation, have not been able to significantly change community mindsets. Hartono & Wijayanti (2022) highlight that transforming awareness requires a long-term approach, cross-actor dialogue, and trust-building through collaborative mechanisms and respect for local wisdom. There is a need for more inclusive political processes at the local level, such as forestry community forums, open deliberations, and recognition of the informal role of communities in protecting the area. In this context, Santika et al. (2019) stated that inclusive environmental politics can provide a shared learning space for communities and governments in building governance based on collaboration and ecological justice.

Implications to Resilience Food

The presence of communities in conservation areas such as Tahura WAR has an ambivalent impact on food security. On the one hand, agricultural land management makes a significant contribution to the local food supply. However, on the other hand, unsustainable agricultural practices can accelerate environmental degradation, which actually threatens food security itself (Perdinan et al., 2019). Dependence on monoculture farming, minimal income diversification, and low technological adaptation exacerbate community food insecurity. Recent research shows that livelihood diversification within the context of conservation and sustainable agriculture provides long-term benefits for productivity, biodiversity, and ecosystem services (Raveloaritiana & Wanger, 2024; Mulyani et al., 2022). Thus, the role of environmental politics is crucial in connecting the dimensions of conservation and food production. Conservation incentive policies, land management partnerships, and integrated extension programs—such as sustainable farming at the village level—can bridge the gap between environmental sustainability and community well-being (Amalia et al., 2022; Viona et al., 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussions that have been carried out, several important conclusions can be drawn. related contribution political environment in support resilience food in area WAR Forest Park. First, perspective public outskirts forest in area Tahura WAR Still very oriented on the increase income term short without consider condition land And environmental sustainability . This is reflected in the dominance of economic orientation (80% of respondents) compared to conservation orientation Which only reach 20% Condition This show existence gap Which significant between objective conservation area with practice Which done by public local. Second, group farmer in area Tahura WAR generally No realize or No understand that perspective political And government still attached on status they as cultivator land in the area conservation. Lack of understanding about dimensions political in management conservation areas cause people to tend to ignore aspects of policy and regulation that are actually own implications directly to the continuity activity agriculture they. Third, draft political environment Still considered blurry And No relevant by part big farmer in the area Tahura WAR. They tend ignore perspective political And government in activity daily, except in contexts certain like election general Where citizenship status they understood as identity political. Condition This

indicates there is a disconnection between environmental policies at the formal level and implementation at the grassroots level. Fourth, although level participation public in development forestry show the results that Enough Good (average score 3.0), However participation This Not yet accompanied by with improvement political awareness environment Which significant. Matter This show that participation Which There is Still is instrumental in nature and has not yet reached a transformative level that can fundamentally change land management practices .Fifth, contribution political environment in support resilience food in area Tahura WAR still Not yet optimal Because existence gap between policy formal with implementation at the local level. Required approach Which more holistic And participatory For bridging interests conservation with need economy public local, so that can created sustainable conservation area management model that supports long-term food security.

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