

Civil society movement in the protection of the peat ecosystem of Meranti Islands, Riau - Indonesia

Hasanuddin¹, Tito Handoko^{1*}, Ishak¹, and Mohammad Yohamzy Tiyas Tinov¹

¹Government of Science, Universitas Riau, Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia

Abstract. In a country's democratic system, the existence of Civil Society Organizations is indispensable. Civil Society Organizations are socio-political institutions that can be used by the community to channel their goals and demands to influence or even shape government policy. In this scenario, Civil Society Organizations can be viewed in two ways, namely sectoral groups and regional groups. Both Groups aim to persuade the government to address issues of public interest in a timely manner. In addition to persuasion, civil society organizations can also carry out advocacy and even file lawsuits against the Government and companies for ecosystem damage. Regarding the issue of peat ecosystem damage, this issue has become a serious issue for the Indonesian government in the last two decades. Damage to peat ecosystems due to illegal encroachment, exploitation for the benefit of plantation companies and brutal conversions have damaged peat ecosystems in Indonesia. Cases of forest and land fires in the last two decades show that management of peat ecosystems is not carried out wisely, the majority of peatland fires occur within company concession areas and very few are due to community activities. Cases of forest and land fires are the most troubling phenomena, especially in Riau this issue even stretches to become a national and transnational issue when the impact of forest and land fires disrupts the activities of citizens of other countries (Singapore and Malaysia). This study analyzes the Meranti Islands civil society movement in protecting the peat ecosystem in the Meranti Islands, in particular, the case of damage to the Meranti Islands peat ecosystem is no longer a secret and needs serious attention from all parties. Various literature suggests that the civil society movement has become a steep road when dealing with authoritarian governments, but after Suharto, this movement has actually become a political force to influence and shape government policy. Likewise with the Meranti Islands civil society movement in efforts to protect the peat ecosystem.

1 Introduction

The issue of forest and land fires in Indonesia has always been discussed in the public sphere, because smoke pollution caused by the phenomenon of forest and land fires has

* Corresponding author: tito.handoko@lecturer.unri.ac.id

become a concern at the local, national and global levels [1]. Indonesia is classified as a country that is prone to natural disasters such as fire, ecological damage and environmental pollution. One disaster that needs special attention is the fire disaster because its impact is felt very quickly. In general, these tragedies are divided into two categories, namely natural disasters and domestic residential disasters. The natural disaster category includes fires caused by natural phenomena such as forest fires triggered by drought or volcanic lava avalanches. In contrast, domestic residential disasters include fires in residential areas, buildings, equipment and transportation [2]. According to research by Fauzi et al. [3] an increase in population and economic activity will cause an increase in the proportion of human activities that can cause disasters, especially fires. Therefore, it is very important to have methods to reduce the level of fire risk [4].

Indonesia is one of the countries with a strong commitment to reducing the impact of climate change, especially in the forestry industry. This is in line with the global vision to reduce the impact of climate change [5]. The extent to which public respondents believe in the causes of climate change essentially cannot be separated from efforts to overcome the problem of climate change [6]. Apart from that, climate change mitigation efforts in the forestry sector also require strong funding support [7]. To face the existence of climate change effectively and build national resilience, the corporate sector, academics, civil society organizations, development partners and all levels of society must be able to play an active role [8]. Fundamentally, the Indonesian government has not been able to effectively control the forestry sector in Indonesia because it is always affected by legal uncertainty, corruption and forest looting, all of which have harmed and continue to harm the country's forestry industry. On the other hand, high international demand for wood and paper products, as well as other commodities such as palm oil, also contributes to the rate of deforestation [9].

In the process, the Indonesian government's commitment is still not being implemented optimally, where in the forestry sector forest management still tends to be disorganized. This is proven by the intensity of forest fires that still occur every year. Based on data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, in the last five years (2018-2022), the number of fire cases that occurred in Indonesia each year, namely in 2018 there were 38,074 cases, in 2019 there were 90,475 cases, in 2020 there were 16,194 cases, in In 2021 there were 13,854 cases, and in 2022 there were 4,390 active fire cases based on data as of July 12 2022 [10]. By looking at the number of cases in the period above, the worst fires occurred in 2019, with a burned area of 1.6 million ha covering Sumatra, Kalimantan and East Nusa Tenggara. Thus, the frequency and intensity of forest fires in Indonesia is one of the results of mismanagement of forest management from the start [5]. Apart from that, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) also warned that the threat of forest and land fires in 2022 will be higher than in 2021 due to the dry season being drier in most parts of Indonesia compared to 2021. Although according to BMKG there will be no warming phenomenon. Sea surface temperature (El Nino) in 2022, but preparations for the dry season must continue to be considered and awareness of smoke disasters during the dry season must continue to be increased, especially on peatlands which will be very difficult to extinguish if a fire occurs. Therefore, the government and various related parties,

including the community, need to increase awareness and also prepare in facing the threat of forest and land fires [11].

Forest and land fires are a phenomenon that continues to occur repeatedly. Various approaches have been taken, but forest and land fires still exist and continue to occur every year. Wibowo's research shows that in managing the handling of forest and land fires, there must be harmony in the management of the handling of all parties, including the participation of agencies that have not been actively involved so far [12]. Then, the lack of optimal participation from all stakeholders is one of the main obstacles that must be overcome to achieve sustainable forestry development. Forestry governance procedures and bureaucracy based on the concepts of transparency, participation, accountability and coordination will facilitate the realization of initiatives to advance Indonesia's forestry sector and reduce the rate of deforestation and degradation [13]. In an effort to protect against forest fires, the government has taken preventive measures by informing forest security officers and deploying technology satellites to detect hotspots in areas that have the potential to experience forest fires [13-15]. However, this is not enough to overcome the problem of forest fires, because the trend of forest fires is always expected to get worse. There are two options recommended for policy reformulation, namely policy modifications, such as adding or removing laws that are not on target and increasing supervision and new policies by changing all regulations, such as prohibiting land clearing by burning forests and imposing strict sanctions for perpetrators of forest fires. including actors and intellectual actors [16,17].

Historically, forest and land fires are ecological disasters caused by unequal power relations between the parties involved. The rise of land and forest-based industries, such as the establishment of timber companies (HPH/HTI) in the 1970s and oil palm plantations in the 1990s cannot be separated from the emergence of forest and land fire cases. This causes widespread forest destruction, especially peat swamp forests. The dominance of corporations as the strongest actors in forest and land governance in Indonesia has attracted the attention of non-governmental organizations. As a form of social movement organization, NGOs play a role and use strategies to encourage equality of power between the government, corporations and citizens [18]. There are several forms or classifications of social movements. The classification is based on several criteria, namely: First, according to the area of desired change. Second, according to the quality of the desired change. Third, according to the target of change. Fourth, according to the direction of change desired. Fifth, according to the underlying strategy or "logic of their actions". Sixth, according to the history of its development [19,20]. Through NGOs (Non-Government Organizations), the community has a platform to advocate and fight for issues that the public considers to be central issues. With the many social challenges facing society, it is not surprising that there are so many NGOs in developing and democratic countries.

According to findings in various studies, NGOs are considered capable of building political opportunity structures that can shape mobilization, framing and various types of action, and have the ability to utilize various collective complaints [18,19,21,22]. In the context of this study, Meranti Islands Regency has declared an emergency alert status for forest and land fires (Karhutla) in 2022. This is to anticipate in advance the spread of fires in 2022 [23]. Based on data from the Riau Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD),

from the beginning of 2022 to March 2022, the total area of burned land has reached 179.91 hectares, with details in Rokan Hulu 5 hectares, Rokan Hilir 3 hectares, Dumai 5.75 hectares, Bengkalis 74.2 hectares, Siak 5.98 hectares, Pekanbaru 3.63 hectares, Kampar 11 hectares, Pelalawan 22.7 hectares, Inhu 9.15 hectares, Inhil 32.5 hectares, and in the Meranti Islands 7 hectares [24]. Since the implementation of forest and land fire alert status in Riau Province through decree number: SK Karhutla 653/III/2022 dated March 21 2022 by the Head of the Riau Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), all relevant stakeholders must work together to prevent widespread forest and land fires from occurring. In the process, the social movement of the people of the Meranti Islands in mitigation, climate change and ecosystem management to reduce the risk of forest and land fires has been carried out in various forms of social movements such as the existence of the fire care community movement (MPA) in several villages in the Meranti Islands Regency which was formed in the context of prevention. and overcoming forest and land fires at the local level (Antaraneews.com 2017). The formation of the MPA aims to increase the role and involvement of the community in controlling forest and land fires. Fire Care Communities, hereinafter referred to as MPA, are communities who voluntarily care about controlling forest and land fires who have been trained/provided with equipment and can be empowered to assist in forest fire control activities. The MPA group is tasked with actively participating in assisting the Technical Implementation Unit or Forest Management Unit and Manggala Agni in carrying out activities to prevent, extinguish and handle post-forest and land fires. This social movement group is also tasked with carrying out activities such as:

- Provide information to unit personnel or Forest Management Units regarding fire incidents and/or arsonists.
- Disseminate information on the danger ranking of forest and land fires.
- Carry out counseling independently or together with unit or Forest Management Unit officers.

2 Method

This research was designed with a qualitative approach, this research design is based on socio-political phenomena developing in the research locus involving various interest groups. The selected speakers were categorized as groups that have a direct connection with efforts to protect the peat ecosystem as a very vulnerable ecosystem amidst the country's development movement and industrial pressure. Therefore, from these groups the actors and actions taken as part of the social movement in protecting the peat ecosystem in Meranti Islands Regency, Riau Province - Indonesia were mapped.

3 Discussion

The presence of NGOs provides color in the reformulation of peat ecosystem management policies in Meranti Islands Regency. In this regard, it can be understood that the peat restoration policy is a public policy issued by the government with the aim of overcoming the problem of forest and land fires. This policy is stated in statutory regulations (Presidential Regulation No. 1 of 2016 concerning the Peat Restoration Agency) so that

it has binding force and is complied with by all members of society in its implementation. Considering that many stakeholders are involved in implementing policies, including: governors of several regions (Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and Papua), several ministries (Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/BPN, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, Ministry of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform, Secretariat of the Vice President, Geospatial Information Agency, Agency Financial and Development Supervision, Cabinet Secretariat, Presidential Staff Office, Secretary to the Vice President), universities, research institutions, professionals and elements of society. These various stakeholders work together under the coordination of the Peat Restoration Agency (BRG). To support the smooth implementation of BRG tasks in the regions, BRG institutions were also formed in 7 provinces where peat restoration will be carried out. The institution is called the Regional Peat Restoration Team (TRGD) [25].

If you look at the restoration target data per district/city issued by the BRG, it can be seen that Indragiri Hilir district and Pelalawan district are the districts with the widest peat restoration targets in Riau Province. However, Presidential Regulation no. 1 of 2016 designated Meranti Islands Regency as a priority for peat restoration in 2016. This condition is a question in itself for the Regional Government of Riau Province because the restoration priority is felt to be inappropriate. The Meranti Islands Regency Regional Government itself does not know the exact reason why its area was a priority for peat restoration in 2016 [25]. Data on forest and land fires in 2018, which reached 1,224 hectares, was sourced from data from independent research at the University of Riau and published together with BRG in 2018, then in 2019 the burned area reached 859.15 hectares, according to data quoted from Pantau Gambut reached 1,118 hectares, so it can be concluded that the restoration program has not been optimal in minimizing the number of forest and land fires in Meranti Islands Regency, which has BRG priority status in Riau Province.

3.1 NGO commitment in peat ecosystem governance in Meranti

Peat restoration is not limited only to the policy but also involves parties who have the authority or participate in the implementation process, which of course coordinates with the BRG, both in terms of policy making and the actors involved into a collaboration. The parties in question cannot be separated from the principles of good governance in order to guarantee good principles in implementing public policies. The very high enthusiasm and positive response of the community in recent years towards the good governance system has raised hopes for a just, open and responsible government [26]. In accordance with the title of this research, it is limited that the actor network in protecting the peat ecosystem in Meranti includes state/government and non-state/non-government actors. If the BRG is an institution that is directly responsible to the President or government and was formed through a Presidential Regulation then the existence of the

Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI), Kalaulahari, JMGR, WWF and the mass media are non-governmental actors.

The main aim of the presence of NGOs is to monitor current development by promoting solutions to create a sustainable environment and uphold social justice in society. Meanwhile, specifically, WALHI was formed with the vision of "the realization of a just and democratic social, economic and political order that can guarantee the people's rights to the sources of life and a healthy environment". In achieving its goal, to restore people's sovereignty over natural resources, WALHI's steps of not compromising on various environmental destroyers are not enough, because all of this is determined by various regulations made by the government. Walhi repositioned and decided to enter advocacy, namely making changes to environmental policy after PNLH III. With this choice, the WALHI movement is becoming more evident, that it is not on the 'outside line' but is continuously providing input, criticism, or making strong protests against government policies, both those that already exist and those that are being discussed. In line with this, WALHI continues to hone its critical attitude regarding various policies and exploitation of natural resources that are detrimental to society.

Table 1. Mapping of actors (government and non-government) for peat restoration in Meranti.

Actor	Role	Work Area
Badan Restorasi Gambut/ Peat Restoration Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat Restoration Program Coordinator • Provider of main data regarding the area to be restored. • Carry out direct restoration independently or in collaboration with other institutions 	Regency. Meranti Islands, Kab. Siak, Kab. Bengkalis, Kab. Pelalawan, Kab, Rokan Hilir. Regency. Rokan Hulu, Kab. Indragiri Hilir and Kab. Indragiri Hulu, Kab. Kampar, City. Dumai, and Pekanbaru City
Dinas Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan Provinsi Riau/ Riau Province Environment and Forestry Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Technical Institutions with authority in the Forestry sector, • Has a new Peat Restoration Section formed in early 2017 • Still passively involved in implementing peat restoration in Riau (not much planning and budgeting for peat restoration) 	-
Jikalahari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively carrying out peat restoration since early 2000 • Environmental NGOs that are "fierce" enough to fight for peat restoration • Carrying out peat restoration, both technically creating canal blocks and providing assistance to the community. 	Currently focusing on the Giam Siak Kecil Peat Hydrological Unit
WALHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has long played an important role in peat restoration. 	It has been successful in the Tohor River, Meranti Islands

Actor	Role	Work Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the program technically, from canal blocking to community economic assistance 	Regency. Currently working in Siak, Pelalawan, Indragiri Hilir and Bengkalis.
JMGR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on restoring peat forests by granting village forest status Assistance in improving the economy of communities around peatlands Community advocacy 	Has successfully fought for the granting of village forest status (which is on peat land) to Rawa Mekar Jaya Village in Siak.
Yayasan Belantara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus is not just on restoring peatlands, but on the ecosystem as a whole. Belantara works alone in implementing peat restoration 	Siak and Bengkalis
Yayasan Mitra Insani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peat restoration is only part of the village forest management program implemented by YMI Canal blocking has been carried out at more than 200 points in various regions. Community assistance to improve the economy of communities around peatlands 	Bengkalis, Siak, Pelalawan, Indragiri Hulu and Indragiri Hilir
WWF Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting in peat restoration in accordance with the MOU with BRG covering an area of 200 thousand hectares 	Giam Siak Kecil-Sungai Rokan Peat Hydrological Unit
Pusat Studi Bencana Universitas Riau/ Riau University Center for Disaster Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide appropriate technical direction in implementing peat restoration Institutions that also focus on deepening research on peat and peat restoration. 	Riau Province

Source: Wicaksono [27]

3.2 The role of NGOs (Non-State Actors) in the peat restoration program in Meranti

In accordance with the topic of this research, it is limited that the actor network in the peat restoration program in Meranti includes state/government and non-state actors. The mapping of these actors is aimed at seeing the consistency of these actors in fighting for a sustainable peat ecosystem. The focus of this actor mapping does not only concern state actors but also non-state actors because efforts to protect peat ecosystems involve various stakeholders.

3.3 Public figure

Community figures are people who have influence in society, both formally elected community figures (such as village heads, mayors, etc.) and those obtained informally (such as kiai, shamans, artists, teachers). A public figure is someone who has a position in a certain environment and has great influence. They are generally considered important by society and close to the public interest. Who and what causes someone to be considered a public figure is their role in society, having a formal position in government, or mastering knowledge in a certain field. According to Law Number 8 of 1987 concerning Protocol, Article 1 paragraph 6 explains that a public figure is someone who, because of their social position, receives honor from the community and/or the Government. In the peat restoration program in Riau Province, the presence of community figures such as Mr. Abdul Manan is considered important considering that he was the person who made the smoke blusukan petition to the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo on October 28 2014 and this was realized by the arrival of the President and his entourage to the Tohor River a month after the petition. sent on November 27 2014. Abdul Manan also has a long track record in fighting for the environment, especially the peat areas in the Tohor River where he lives, as acknowledged in the following interview excerpt:

"I was one of the founders or founders of JMGR (Riau Peat Community Network) in 2010, we tried to bring down and reject companies that planted acacia and palm oil on peatlands, then I have also previously been active in Walhi since 2009"

Abdul Manan's position in the struggle to defend the environment, especially peat in the Meranti Islands Regency, can be called an environmental activist, in fact his activities started before the term restoration for peatlands was introduced, then the arrival of the President of the Republic of Indonesia to respond to community complaints and at the same time inaugurating the permanent canal blocking which was adopted by various regions in Indonesia, the formation of the Peat Restoration Agency (BRG) which was first launched in Sungai Tohor Village, is still active in organizations or community groups such as EKA (Maintained Creative Economy).

3.4 Indonesian forum for the environment (WALHI)

The Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) is the largest environmental movement organization in Indonesia, with 487 members from non-governmental organizations and nature lover organizations, as well as 203 individual members spread across 28 provinces in Indonesia. Since 1980 until now, WALHI has actively promoted efforts to save and restore the environment in Indonesia. WALHI works to continue to encourage the realization of recognition of the right to the environment, protection and fulfillment of human rights as a form of State responsibility for the destruction of the people's sources of life. Walhi as an actor in peat restoration plays a role in assisting the community, this was confirmed from the results of an interview with Fandi Rahman, Manager of Acceleration of Expansion of the People's Management Area of WALHI Riau:

“Walhi's nature is for our community to accompany us, when we are dealing with the law we are on the side as companions, but when we are dealing with economic issues and saving the environment we are behind us as motivators and giving them enthusiasm to fight for their hometowns”.

Apart from being a companion for the community in fighting for the environment, Walhi and its member institutions also carry out restoration through native plant nurseries of the Tohor River and several other DPGs in Riau.

Table 2. Roles of peat restoration actors in Meranti Islands Regency.

Actor	Role
Public Figure	As the start of the peat restoration program in Riau or the reason for the President's visit to Meranti Islands Regency via the blusukan smoke petition (Pak Abdul Manan)
Badan Restorasi Gambut (BRG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat Restoration Program Coordinator • Provider of main data regarding the area to be restored. • Carry out direct restoration independently or in collaboration with other institutions.
WALHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has long played an important role in peat restoration. • Carry out assistance to the community regarding their rights to their territory and the social economy of the community.
Pemerintah Desa/ Village's Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialize the community • Move under BRG guidance
Community Groups	As a forum for community aspirations and movements in protecting, caring for and managing peatlands

Source: Research Data, 2023

3.5 Impact of the peat restoration actor network

The definition of impact according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is a clash, an influence that has both positive and negative consequences. Influence is the power that exists and arises from something (person, object) which helps shape a person's character, beliefs or actions. Influence is a condition where there is a reciprocal relationship or cause and effect relationship between what influences and what is influenced.

3.6 Positive impact of actor networks in peat restoration programs

The public can feel the government's seriousness in responding to problems or community concerns regarding peat in Meranti Islands Regency by establishing an institution responsible for handling these problems.

- Realization of the restoration program through the role of actors who took part in the Peat Restoration Program in Meranti Islands Regency.
- Each actor has their own field in making the program run smoothly, both in terms of technique, assistance and management.

3.7 Negative impact of actor networks in peat restoration programs

The lack of collaboration from the actors participating in the Peat Restoration Program in Meranti Islands Regency is what causes this program to just run smoothly without the community knowing more about restoration even though they have experienced the positive impacts directly. The lack of collaboration also creates two camps divided between government and non-government actors who mutually cause dissatisfaction with each other.

3.8 Peat ecosystem governance and cohesiveness of non-state actors

The formation of the Peat Restoration Agency (BRG) cannot be separated from suggestions and input from environmental activists (WALHI) and universities because handling peat damage must be carried out in a targeted, measurable and sustainable manner. Specifically for Riau Province alone, peat restoration activities that have been carried out from 2017 to 2019 have reached more than 900 thousand hectares. Of this area, BRG's total responsibility is estimated to reach 109 thousand hectares. While 600 thousand hectares are peatlands in Industrial Plantation Forest (HTI) areas, the remaining 200 thousand hectares are in plantation areas or with Cultivation Rights (HGU) owners. This issue is a serious challenge for BRG considering that the Peat Hydrological Unit (KHG) which is in the concession area is actually larger than the one which is free. Meanwhile, the biggest impact of KHG damage is on concession land, not on land owned by individuals.

Peatland restoration carried out in Riau is considered to still focus on community-owned land. For example, in the case of peat restoration in Sungai Tohor Village, Pulau Meranti Regency, the arrival of President Joko Widodo to this village in 2016 became a turning point in increasing public awareness and focusing on peat restoration on community land. Since 2016, Sungai Tohor Village has grown into a fire aware village and has recorded no fires and the 3R restoration achievements in this village have been quite significant in overcoming peat damage. Until 2019, a total of 14 (fourteen) canal blocks have been built and one of them is a permanent canal block. Apart from that, for revegetation there have been hundreds of tree seedlings that have been planted in peatlands, including natural wood, meranti, jelutung, jawang and so on which have been planted side by side with sago trees to keep the sago shaded so that the sago's flowers grow better. Mainstreaming community-based governance is really needed considering that peat is a community tradition and maintaining its sustainability must also involve the community simultaneously.

The peat restoration program can also be considered as a form of government action to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As is known, the SDGs integrate, understand and act in complex interrelations in environmental, economic and social aspects and are the three main pillars of sustainable development. Of the 17 SDG targets which will apply until 2030, one of the targets is related to the research concept being promoted, namely Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land, which is closely related to environmental,

economic and social sustainability. Based on this, several aspects that will be the focus goals in this SDG-based research are environmental aspects, social aspects and economic aspects. In the environmental aspect, peatlands have several important values, both extractive and non-extractive. As an extractive material, peat can be used as an energy material (for example, charcoal briquettes), for its humic acid, as a seedling medium and as a medium for dry land reclamation. Meanwhile, as a non-extractive material, it can function as a habitat to support biodiversity, as forestry, plantation and agricultural land. Apart from that, because of its ability to store very large amounts of water (90% of its volume), peatlands can be expected to function as a hydrological buffer for the surrounding area, namely preventing flooding and sea water intrusion.

The concern of many parties regarding the peat ecosystem is certainly justified, at least these parties believe that the poor quality of the peat ecosystem will accelerate the rate of destruction of the human population at large. The presence of non-State actors in fighting for the improvement of peat ecosystems is actually able to pressure and encourage the State to act more concretely. Regulatory improvements are a concrete example of the efforts of non-State actors in fighting for the improvement of peat ecosystems. The work of non-State actors is certainly simultaneous and not particular, this is marked by the strengthening of public participation in various arenas of struggle for sustainable peat ecosystem governance. The voices of non-State actors (read – Walhi, Kalaulahari, WWF, Green Peace etc.) have been able to significantly change the direction of State policy in the use and exploitation of peat ecosystems in Meranti and Indonesia.

4 Conclusion

Peat restoration in Meranti Islands Regency gave rise to a network of actors divided into two camps, including those from or directly responsible to the government and institutions or organizations operating outside of responsibility to the government (non-government). The actor responsible to the government in this program is the Peat Restoration Agency, then the Village Government which operates under the guidance and direction of BRG. Meanwhile, actors who are classified as non-government/non-government actors include WALHI which also plays a role in assisting other actors, such as community leaders, WALHI member institutions, and also community groups that are still active and participating in peat conservation efforts in the Islands Regency Meranti.

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