

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, several young mangrove plants with green, rounded leaves are growing in sandy soil. The ground is covered with dry, brownish vegetation and some fallen branches. In the background, a dense line of trees, including tall, thin palm trees, stretches across the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is diffused.


Lubuk Jering Group


Oct 13th, 2010

Overview



- Main Conflict:
 - Lubuk Jering Village's customary land rights v.s. Pulpwood Plantation PT RAPP's concession
- Main Stakeholder Groups:
 - Lubuk Jering Village
 - RAPP
 - Government
 - NGO: Local NGOs; LEI; Scale Up (Mediator)

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- **Lubuk Jering community** has customary lands in Mandau Sector and they used land for gardens of rubber, fruits, small oil palm plantation, vegetables and dry-land rice.
 - In **1997**, **Ministry of Forestry** issued plantation permit to **RAPP** which includes 23000 hectares land in Mandau sector where the community has its customary land. Community was several rounds of compensations for their land in the following years.
 - Conflict reached its peak in **2006** when an even bigger concession of forest land from **Riau Forestry Office** was given to **RPP: 1627 hectares among which is in dispute with the community;** **Community** produced letter of objection, protested due to the overtaking of the ancestor land and **RPP** did not relent

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- **Early 2006**, the company received a SFM certification from **Ecolabel Insitute. (LEI)**
 - **June 2006**, a **team 11** was chosen by the community to negotiate with the company. The negotiation begins in **Jan 2007**.
 - **September 2006**, **Local NGOs** protested the SFM label & to the company.
 - **February 2007**, **Scale Up** was requested by company and community to mediate
 - **December 2007**, a MOU on the oil palm plantation was signed by **team 11** and **company**.
 - **December 2008**, a MOU agreement on the land rights was signed by **team 11** and **company**.
 - **Late 2008**, the **new village head** and **new sub-district chief** appointed and refused to sign the agreement.
 - **2009**, **Team 11** was dissolved 2 months ago. A **Working Group** of **9 community representatives**, appointed by the new village head, with the special task to help village head in his official responsibilities

Key Observations

Why the efforts to settle the conflict failed?

- Changing governmental and community authorities
- Lack of coordination between the community and the government officials
- Deep fracture among the community over leadership
- Diverging economic interests within the community
- Traditional leadership where decision making does not necessitate the community interests
- Uncertainty and complexity of the land rights among all different stakeholders : Each stakeholder has certain amount but not full legitimacy of rights

Lessons learnt:

- Strong binding legal instruments are necessary
- There should be processes that are inclusive of the community members, even that is not a traditional mechanisms

Food for thoughts:

- **We need to realize the internal conflicts within community is not uncommon. So how to overcome the conflicts of interests within the communities? How can FPIC help?**
- **What can be strong binding legal instruments to resolve conflicts?**
- **How can the community have more ownership over the processes and the final decisions?**
- **How can FPIC fit into a complicated land rights scenario?**