

# **FOREST MATTERS**

Analysis on the contemporary forest and forest-related policy in Indonesia

**Ahmad Maryudi**

**Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

**Maryudi, Ahmad:**

Forest Matters - Analysis on the contemporary forest  
and forest-related policy in Indonesia

ISBN 978-3-941274-65-5

**All Rights Reserved**

1. Edition 2011, Göttingen

© Optimus Verlag

URL: [www.optimus-verlag.de](http://www.optimus-verlag.de)

Printed in Germany

Paper is FSC certified (wood-free, chlorine free and acid-free,  
and resistant to aging ANSI 3948 and ISO 9706)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, scanning, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Request to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to [info@optimus-verlag.de](mailto:info@optimus-verlag.de).

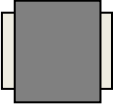
## **Preface**

This book compiles the writer's columns and opinions in national and international newspapers on an array of forest and environmental issues. Each piece of the opinions analyzes actual issues at particular time. This book is an interest of any readers particularly those are interested in forest and environmental issues. As this book is a compilation of opinions in popular media, it tries to simplify many technical forest and environmental terms into more readable terms by even those having no forest/ environmental backgrounds.

Enjoy reading!

## Table of Contents

Forest Matters - An introduction .....	1
A Question of Contesting Ideologies .....	5
Urgent: 'Recovery packages' for our forests.....	9
Preserving the 'Green Triangle' .....	13
The politics of deforestation.....	17
Enforcing Stewardship in Our Forests.....	21
How to crack down on rampant illegal logging.....	25
Tackling illegal logging.....	29
Forest stewardship: Sticks or carrots?.....	33
Green Schemes More Theory Than Results .....	37
To Create Healthy Forests, Put Them in The Hands of People Who Need Them .....	41
The paradox of empowerment in community forestry .....	47
Your climate change, not ours .....	51
Seeking fair climate change regime.....	55
Environmental commitment: A changing carbon policy? .....	59
The pendulum swings to the other direction.....	63
Emissions Cuts Make Sense, But Yudhoyono's Numbers Don't Add Up.....	67
Ready for REDD? .....	71
Biodiversity Loss Needs an Al Gore .....	75
Addressing food crisis, maintaining biodiversity .....	79
Forestry education is out of fashion.....	83
References .....	87



## **Forest Matters - An introduction**

History has witnessed forests shaping human civilization from the ancient times to the industrial ages, but never have forests staged such a paramount of importance as of the recent years. One can look at the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change that place the world's forests as "the agenda of the day", given their pivotal roles in preventing the global catastrophe predicted to occur if the concentration of carbon in the Earth's atmosphere is to increase. This couples other vital functions of forests as providing for our society with environmental services and recreation, providing habitat for endangered species, supporting the sustenance of daily life of local people, as well as providing many economic opportunities and so.

That forests produce diverse goods and services draws a spectrum of stakes, from local to international levels. People might unite in aspiring for sustainable forestry, but the different interests of theirs shape the taste on what it should look like. **Article 1** of this book analyses the multidimensional -and often conflicting- demands on the forests that complicate their management. Even when we appear to conclude that the world's forests are trending to decline, as the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has regularly reported (see FAO 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009), divergence of opinions occurs on the extent to which the resource is disappearing (**Article 4**).

The declining forests demand for urgent conservation packages (**Article 2 & 3**); we have however witnessed poor forest policy on the uses of the resource. Despite the extensive regulatory approach dealing with forest uses, forest loss and degradation

remain unabated in many parts of the globe. In fact, there are several drawbacks of the approach; it is resource and enforcement-intensive (Potoski and Prakash 2005). Some governments might have been hindered in ensuring wise forest uses as they might possess limited resources to address forest problems, which have become increasingly complex (Rosenbaum 1995). Our examples on cases of illegal logging and the concession system in Indonesia highlight this problem (**Article 5, 6, & 7**).

In past few years, regulatory approach has been increasingly perceived to as ineffective in delivering good forest management. As such, many environmental activists explored alternatives to governmental-instigated instruments, and recently promoted markets of forest products a means to influence behavior of private actors (Rosenbaum 1995, Cashore et al. 2004). A number of innovations have emerged in environmental policies in some countries (see Mol et al. 2000, Gunningham and Sinclair 2002). One of these instruments is the mechanism of certification and labeling. It is an informational device that enables consumers to distinguish whether or not forest products originate from well-managed forests (Upton and Bass 1995). **Article 8 & 9** deals with this new mode of forest policy, including the impacts have so far been revealed in practice.

Further backward, forest experts have promoted community forestry as a mode to tackle forest degradation and rural poverty in one single package of program. Poverty is pervasive in rural areas in the forest vicinity; this is often viewed by many development experts to contribute in increased deforestation (see Deininger and Minten 1999). On the other hand, forest activities by external stakeholders have been perceived to capture most of

the benefits from the forests and to have limitedly contributed to improving rural livelihood. This is trenchantly criticized by Westoby (1987: 291) that 'its contribution to improving the quality of rural life and raising the welfare of the rural masses has been negligible.'

Many countries across the globe have since adopted community forestry program. It is estimated that over a tenth of the world's forests are managed accordingly to models of community forestry (Bull and White 2002). Along the global trend, Indonesia has also implemented the policy program. **Articles 10 & 11** outline the promises of community forestry and analyses the realities. While in the program forest users can expect to get empowered so that they can create own strategies to escape from their poverty-laden daily life, community forestry has been set only for subsistence-economy of the users.

The second half of this book is dedicated to analyse the international politics on climate change, particularly how the world's forests are place at the central stage. **Article 12** analyzes that the focus on the roles of the forest resources diverts the global attention away from the main driver of climate change - principally the uses of fossil fuels. The next three articles (**13, 14, 15**) focus on the reluctance of economically-developed nations to bear more burdens despite their historical emissions and to offer fairer solutions in tackling climate change. **Article 16 & 17** turn to the readiness of Indonesia whether it can meaningfully contribute to mitigating the changing climate. The issue of biodiversity comes also into the attention of this book (**Article 18 & 19**). Finally (**Article 20**), this book is wrapped up with an analysis on the current forest education that appears to be lagged behind the challenges to sustainably manage the forest resources.