

COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN BESOWO NATURE RESERVE

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the potential conflict between farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve and to develop conflict management strategies through a community building approach. The study employs a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data is collected through a survey using open ended questionnaires, while qualitative data is obtained through in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Purposive sampling ensures that informants meet relevant criteria. The findings indicate that the lack of communication and coordination between farmers and the reserve management is a significant factor triggering conflict. Differences in understanding regarding natural resource management and regulatory ambiguity also contribute to the situation. Respondents show positive support for the importance of building trust and transparent communication. The proposed community building strategy includes the formation of a sense of community by fostering unity and shared understanding among farmers and stakeholders, active involvement in decision-making, ongoing communication through regular meetings and dialogues, and the use of communication tools such as suggestion boxes or online platforms to facilitate idea exchange and complaints. In conclusion, the study underscores the crucial role of community building strategies in identifying, preventing, and managing potential conflicts. By understanding the root causes and implementing concrete steps to build communities, relations between farmers and stakeholders can be strengthened, creating a harmonious balance in natural resource utilization at Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. An inclusive and sustainable approach is expected to generate fair and lasting solutions, maintaining a balance between farmers needs and environmental preservation

Keywords: communication strategies, community building strategy, conflict management, sense of community, sustainable resource management.

INTRODUCTION

Besowo Nature Reserve is one of the conservation areas with high biodiversity and is crucial to preserve in Indonesia (Rustinsyah, 2015). Various types of flora and fauna

Citation: Azizah S, Firmansyah F. 2025. Community building for conflict management in besowo nature reserve. *Agrociencia*. <https://doi.org/10.47163/agrociencia.v59i2.3262>

Editor in Chief:
Dr. Fernando C. Gómez Merino

Received: July 05, 2024.
Approved: January 17, 2025.
Published in Agrociencia:
February 04, 2025.

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are protected by law. According to the East Java Natural Resource Conservation Agency (2014), administratively, Besowo Village is a buffer zone, located in Besowo Village, Kepung District, Kediri Regency, country of Indonesia. The buffer zone surrounds the protected area, aiming to limit human activities in the vicinity to avoid damaging the ecosystem within the area. Natural resources have become an integral part of community life, playing a significant role in social, economic, and political aspects. Recognizing the irreplaceable importance of natural resources for human life, the government established Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning "Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems". The community in Besowo Village relies heavily on forest resources within the conservation area, especially wood, leaves, candlenuts, and bamboo shoots. Most sheep and goat farmers in Besowo Village also depend on forage from Besowo Nature Reserve for their livestock feed.

In certain situations, the utilization of forest resources by goat or sheep farmers and the community in Besowo Village violates regulations, particularly regarding the harvesting of wood and foliage by farmers. Residents living inside or around forest areas are prohibited from transporting, controlling, or possessing forest products without valid documentation (Law No. 18 Article 12 of 2013 concerning Prevention and Eradication of Forest Destruction). This violation has the potential to cause conflicts between farmers and stakeholders. Conflict arises when there is a lack of understanding among various parties. Moreover, conflicts can also emerge due to conflicting interests and objectives among individuals or groups. This situation occurs when there is a gap in social status, inequality in wealth distribution, and imbalance of power in the relationship (Hadiyanto, 2014; Aprylasari et al., 2022). According to Siradjuddin (2015), conflict is a common and frequent occurrence everywhere because social relationships often involve differences in perception, meaning, and interests among individuals or groups involved. Arifandy and Sihalo (2016) stated that conflicts of interest among stakeholders, including Perhutani, the East Java Natural Resource Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Besowo Village Government, and the community, subsequently lead to conflict. Conflict can arise when farmers seek forest resources for their business, while other stakeholders have interests in preserving the natural environment in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This aligns with Wahyudi (2015) opinion that when there are limitations or restrictions on resources such as materials or other means, competition for their use may potentially lead to conflict.

The potential conflict between livestock farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve can have detrimental impacts on both environmental sustainability and the socio-economic livelihoods of the local community. To address this conflict potential, efforts are needed to identify potential conflicts that may arise between livestock farmers and other stakeholders, followed by effective management strategies to reduce conflict and build harmonious cooperation between farmers and other stakeholders.

According to research by Irwandi and Chotim (2017), conflict identification includes various aspects such as conflict sources, factors causing conflicts, and conflict

impacts. Conflicts often have multiple causes, generally stemming from issues in the relationships between the involved parties.

Community building was chosen as one of the conflict management strategies because this approach focuses on building strong and mutually beneficial relationships among community members. Faced with the conflict situation between livestock farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve, there is a need to enhance social relations and cooperation between both parties to achieve sustainable solutions. Community building is a series of practices aimed at creating or enhancing a sense of togetherness among individuals or groups in a particular area or with shared needs or interests (Hyde and Chavis, 2007). The implementation of community building involves efforts to unite individuals or groups and create a sense of ownership. According to Lazarus et al. (2016), the community building approach can be implemented through various means, including understanding the benefits and targets of community building, mechanisms of community building, developing participatory mechanisms, and building trust relationships.

The community building strategy helps to foster a sense of community, increase active participation, and improve communication among community members. Therefore, this approach not only assists in managing existing conflicts but also strengthens long-term relationships between livestock farmers and stakeholders for sustainable resolutions. Mcmillan and Chavis (1986) explain that a sense of community is a feeling where members feel a sense of ownership, recognize the importance of each other and the group, and share the belief that members' needs will be met through commitment to each other. The community building strategy aims to strengthen the relationship between livestock farmers and stakeholders, foster trust, and reduce the potential for conflict. This aligns with the perspective of Rahmawati et al. (2017), who state that integrating community building strategies into national life requires collaboration among various related stakeholders. The implementation of community building strategies is expected to facilitate the development of a shared understanding in managing natural resources in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Additionally, through active participation from all parties, sustainable solutions can be generated, ensuring the continuity of livestock farming and environmental preservation while enhancing harmony in the relationship between livestock farmers and stakeholders

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was conducted on goat and sheep farmers in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve with stakeholders for 6 months, from July 2023 to January 2024. The location was determined using purposive sampling, which involves selecting locations based on specific considerations. This study uses mixed methods to analyze forest resource conflicts in Besowo Village, Kediri District, East Java Province, Indonesia. Creswell (2009) explains that mixed methods involve combining two research approaches, quantitative and qualitative, in one series of research activities.

The goal is to obtain more comprehensive, valid, reliable, and objective data. The choice of mixed methods in this study is due to its ability to provide a deep and detailed

understanding of an event or social phenomenon. The mixed methods approach is applied to uncover conflicts in forest resource management and identify their causes. Furthermore, the research method used is a case study. The implementation of the case study is carried out through observation, in-depth interviews, and secondary data analysis as analytical tools. The case study strategy applied by the researcher aims to avoid the limitations of understanding bound to a particular theory and focuses more on the researcher's interpretation.

The quantitative research method used is the survey method, utilizing open-ended questionnaires as the primary data collection tool. Survey research involves taking samples from a population and using prepared questionnaires. The population is a collection of subjects or objects with characteristics determined by the researcher for in-depth study, with the aim of drawing relevant conclusions from the research results. The population in question consists of the communities around the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Meanwhile, the qualitative method used involves in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) to understand the context, dynamics, and direct experiences of farmers and stakeholders related to conflicts in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Qualitative methods also have the capability to explore social realities and processes, as well as meanings derived from the understanding developed by the research subjects (Sitorus, 2021)

Sampling in this study uses purposive sampling, a technique for determining samples based on certain considerations so that they are suitable to be used as informants. This sampling selection is based on specific characteristics of the population, with special consideration given to factors such as gender, age, education level, occupation, number of livestock, and livestock groups that are considered relevant and significant.

Research Design, Method, and Sampling Strategy

The data collection method used in this study is through primary data obtained directly from research questionnaires submitted to the community and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Meanwhile, secondary data can be obtained from documentation, where researchers read and observe, process reports, and notes from the community and stakeholders that will support the research, as well as related research aiming to supplement any deficiencies in primary data.

Variables Used

Independent Variables:

Communication Quality, this variable assesses the effectiveness of communication between farmers and stakeholders, including clarity, frequency, and transparency of information shared.

Stakeholder Involvement, this variable measures the level of participation and engagement of stakeholders in decision-making processes related to resource management.

Dependent Variables:

Perception of Conflict, this variable reflects the respondents' views on the intensity and nature of conflicts experienced in the community, as measured by the Likert scale responses.

Community Trust:

This variable evaluates the level of trust among community members and between farmers and stakeholders, which is crucial for conflict resolution and collaboration.

Data Analysis

The data collected includes both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was gathered through surveys, interviews, and observations, involving a specific number of samples. Secondary data was collected from existing research and reports relevant to the study area.

Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis was conducted to identify differences between groups or variables. For example, the perceptions of livestock farmers and stakeholders regarding conflicts were compared, as well as the level of stakeholder participation in conflict resolution efforts. This analysis helps to identify significant differences between the groups or variables involved.

Likert Scale Analysis

Data from the Likert scale was processed to provide an overview of tendencies or perceptions regarding the level of conflict. The distribution of respondents' answers on the Likert scale was analyzed to assess the extent of conflict based on respondents' perceptions. Scores of 1-4 were used in the analysis, where a score of 1 indicates a low perception of conflict, and a score of 4 indicates a high perception of conflict. This process offers a detailed understanding of how respondents evaluate and respond to the level of conflict to enable the identification of specific patterns or trends in respondents' perceptions of conflict, whether it tends to increase, decrease, or remain stable. By utilizing the Likert scale scores, this research can produce a more detailed and contextual analysis related to the conflict under study.

Analysis Conclusion

In the conclusion of the analysis, key findings are presented using descriptive statistics to provide a detailed depiction of the research results. Subsequently, conclusions are drawn regarding the impact of the implementation of the Community Building Strategy (CBS) on perceptions of potential conflict between livestock farmers and stakeholders. The analysis results indicate that the higher the level of CBS implementation, the lower the perception of potential conflict.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

Source of Conflict

During the research in Desa Besowo, the identification of conflicts highlighted several sources of tension between farmers and Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. One of the main sources of conflict is the difference in perspectives regarding the utilization of forest resources. This aligns with the viewpoint of Arifandy and Sihaloho (2016), who stated that the management and utilization of forest resources can potentially lead to conflicts of interest among involved parties, thus creating tension. Farmers tend to view the forest as a resource that supports their farming activities, while Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve prioritizes conservation and environmental protection aspects. This difference creates conflict because each party has different priorities regarding forest management. Additionally, the rules and policies implemented by Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve also serve as a source of conflict.

The data results from the Likert scale in Table 1, with a total average score reaching 3.42, indicate a high level of conflict in Besowo Village. This figure suggests the presence of tension or conflict between farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The assessment through the Likert scale provides an overview that the potential conflict in this study cannot be ignored, hence the need for handling measures to achieve harmony or balance between the two parties involved, such as communication training and the establishment of shared regulations.

Table 1. Potential Conflicts between Farmers and Stakeholders.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you agree that the potential conflict between livestock farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders can affect the sustainability of livestock farming?	0	0	38	32	3,45
Do you think the communication between livestock farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders has been effective in managing conflicts?	0	2	32	36	3,48
Do you agree that differences in perception between livestock farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders can be a significant source of conflict?	0	4	35	31	3,38
Do you think the concrete efforts made by the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders in addressing conflicts with livestock farmers have been less than optimal?	0	4	37	29	3,35
Do you believe that increasing mutual understanding between livestock farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders can reduce potential conflicts in the future?	0	0	37	33	3,47
Total Average: 3,42					

Competition for Access to Resources

Such competition arises due to the limited natural resources available to farmers in Desa Besowo. It's evident that the high demand for forest resources such as grass, foliage, and wood by various farmers can create an escalating competitive situation. Therefore, the limitation in the availability of natural resources becomes the primary cause of competition among farmers in meeting their livestock business needs.

The Likert scale data from Table 2 yielded a value of 3.43, indicating a significant level of competition for access to resources in Besowo Village. This value reflects tension or conflict in the efforts to access resources such as grass, foliage, and wood by farmers, thus leading to conflicts with the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This figure provides an overview that the phenomenon of competition for resource access is an important aspect that can trigger conflicts in the area. Therefore, attention and strategic actions are needed to manage competition for resource access, such as inclusive approaches by the nature reserve management involving the formation of discussion forums between farmers and the nature reserve authorities. This can help identify mutually beneficial solutions considering the interests of both parties and environmental sustainability.

Table 2. Competition for Access to Resources.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you experience competition for access to natural resources in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	1	3	31	35	3,42
Do you believe that this competition for access can create an imbalance in the supply of resources for farmers around the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	2	1	34	33	3,4
Do you believe that competition for access to resources can lead to conflicts among farmers around the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	0	3	32	35	3,45
Do you believe that participatory solutions involving farmers can be an effective step in managing competition for access to resources in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	0	0	37	33	3,47
Average Total: 3,43					

Differences in Values and Norms

The data obtained through interviews with farmers and stakeholders at the research site reveal that the values of mutual cooperation and perseverance play a crucial role in managing farming businesses in Desa Besowo. These two values serve as the primary foundation guiding farmers in establishing and running their businesses. Mutual cooperation reflects a strong spirit of collaboration among farmers, where they assist each other in various aspects of farming, such as seeking feed or making

improvements to barn facilities. Additionally, perseverance is a key element highly valued by farmers, demonstrating their dedication and seriousness in facing various daily challenges and difficulties. Husnah (2017) suggests that the community exhibits cultural characteristics that still prioritize familial and communal values, as reflected in their participation in various activities, including mutual cooperation. This indicates that familial and communal aspects remain fundamental pillars of the community culture, forming a strong basis for harmonious and collaborative social interactions. This perseverance is reflected in their commitment to maintaining the sustainability of their farming businesses.

Effective Communication

Amin (2017) stated that communication plays a crucial role in the dynamics of social life, effective communication has the ability to address and resolve conflicts that arise in social interactions, and the ability to communicate well is a key factor in creating mutually beneficial understanding and overcoming potential conflicts. The data obtained through interviews with farmers and stakeholders at the research site reveal that the perception of farmers in Besowo Village towards the communication
 The Likert scale data results listed in Table 3 yield a value of 3.42, indicating differences in values and norms in Besowo Village. This value depicts that the conflict between farmers and the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve has led to discrepancies in the community's values and norms. These differences in values can be a major trigger for conflict, as each party has different perspectives and principles

Table 3. Differences in Values and Norms.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you believe that differences in values between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders can be a cause of conflict?	0	2	32	36	3,48
Do you think that differences in norms held by farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve stakeholders can hinder efforts of cooperation and mutual understanding in managing forest resources?	2	0	35	33	3,41
Do you believe that a lack of understanding of the norms in place at Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve can trigger conflicts between farmers and management authorities?	0	2	33	35	3,47
Do you think efforts to enhance understanding and alignment of values and norms between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve authorities can reduce the potential for conflict?	0	7	32	31	3,34
Do you believe that open dialogue and active participation from both sides can be a solution to address the differences in values and norms that exist?	0	2	35	33	3,44
Average Total: 3,42					

regarding the management of forest resources. Therefore, there is a need for in-depth efforts to understand and address established with the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve management tends to be negative. Farmers stated that the communication conducted so far is considered inadequate. One of the main complaints expressed is the lack of direct meetings or gatherings between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve management to discuss the conflicts occurring in the area.

Based on the data analysis using the Likert Scale from Table 4, a value of 3.47 is obtained. This figure indicates a lack of effective communication between farmers and the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This phenomenon signifies that the communication that has been ongoing so far is considered inadequate by the respondents, and there is a need for improvement in communicative interaction between the two parties. The research results emphasize the necessity for more intensive and structured efforts in communication, including involving regular meetings or discussion forums. Efforts to enhance communication between farmers and the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve should not only be formal but also require a participatory approach. These steps need to involve both parties in designing effective and sustainable communication strategies, thereby creating a positive collaborative environment and minimizing tension. Therefore, meetings and the development of communication initiatives supporting mutual understanding are necessary to overcome communication barriers in Besowo Village

Table 4. Effective Communication.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you think that ineffective communication between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve authorities can be a cause of conflict in the area?	0	0	37	33	3,47
Do you believe that the lack of direct meetings or discussions between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve authorities can hinder mutual understanding and conflict resolution?	0	3	32	35	3,45
Do you think that the lack of initiative to organize regular meetings or dialogue forums can be a barrier to creating effective communication?	0	0	36	34	3,48
Do you believe that increased and open communication can help address conflicts between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve authorities?	0	2	32	36	3,48
Average Total: 3,47					

Factors Causing Conflict

The research involving interviews with farmers and stakeholders in Desa Besowo identified several factors causing conflicts between farmers and the management of

Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Differences in perception and understanding between farmers and the conservation area management regarding the extraction of wood and foliage emerged as the primary factors influencing the conflict dynamics. Based on the Likert scale data in Table 5, a value of 3.42 is obtained. This figure indicates the existence of factors causing conflict between farmers and the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. These factors can trigger tension and differences in views between the two parties. The research highlights the need for a deep understanding of the identified conflict-causing factors. These factors need to be clearly identified to

Table 5. Conflict Causes.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you believe that differences in perception between farmers and the managers of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve regarding the harvesting of wood and leaves can be a factor causing conflict in the area?	0	0	33	37	3,52
Do you believe that the ambiguity of rules and regulations regarding the extraction of forest resources in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve area can increase the potential for conflict between farmers and the management of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	0	4	32	34	3,42
Do you believe that the involvement of farmers in the policy formulation process and the establishment of more transparent rules can reduce the likelihood of conflicts?	5	1	34	30	3,27
Do you believe that differences in views on the utilization of forest resources between farmers and the managers of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve can be a source of conflict?	0	0	38	32	3,45
Do you believe that a lack of understanding about the rules and restrictions in place can trigger conflicts between farmers and the managers of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	0	0	36	34	3,48
Average Total: 3,42					

formulate effective conflict resolution strategies. Furthermore, a deeper understanding of the differences in perception and underlying issues of the conflict will serve as a basis for creating sustainable and fair solutions for both parties. Efforts to resolve conflicts need to be comprehensive, involving active participation from both farmers and the stakeholders of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. A collaborative approach is required to address differences in perspectives and reach mutually beneficial agreements. Additionally, the factors causing conflicts need further scrutiny to design policies and concrete measures that can reduce the potential for conflicts in the future.

Impact of Conflict

The interviews conducted during the research at the location revealed that the conflict between farmers and the management of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve has significant consequences. One of the main impacts is the difficulty in building positive relationships between farmers and the conservation area management.

Based on the Likert scale data in Table 6, a value of 3.42 is obtained. This figure indicates that there are impacts of conflict between farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. These impacts can affect various aspects, such as inter-farmer relationships, environmental sustainability, economic and social pressures on farmers, instability in resource supply, and difficulties in developing farming businesses. The impacts of conflict are one of the aspects that require serious attention in addressing emerging issues. Concrete efforts are needed to understand these impacts comprehensively. This understanding can serve as a basis for stakeholders to formulate policies and strategies that minimize negative impacts and support the sustainability of farming businesses and environmental conservation.

Table 6. Impact of Conflict Between Farmers and Stakeholders in Besowo Nature Reserve.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you believe that conflicts between farmers and stakeholders of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve make it difficult to build positive relationships?	0	0	34	36	3,51
Do you believe that these conflicts have a negative impact on the sustainability of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve?	4	0	36	30	3,31
Do you believe that conflicts between farmers and stakeholders of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve increase economic and social pressures on farmers in Besowo Village?	0	0	37	33	3,47
Do you believe that these conflicts cause instability in the supply of resources for livestock businesses?	0	3	35	32	3,41
Do you believe that conflicts between farmers and stakeholders of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve make it difficult for farmers to develop their livestock businesses?	1	2	33	34	3,42
Average Total: 3,42					

Community Building Strategies for Managing Potential Conflicts

The strategy of community building can be defined as an effort to strengthen the bonds among farmers and stakeholders through a participatory approach. Steps such as improving communication, establishing dialogue forums, and developing joint activities can be part of the community building strategy. The implementation of

community building strategy is expected to create a more harmonious environment, minimize conflict potential, and promote the sustainability of both farmers' livelihoods and environmental conservation around Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The success of implementing the community building strategy requires collaboration from various parties, including farmers, stakeholders, and other relevant entities, by building a cohesive community, thereby creating a conducive environment for all involved parties and minimizing conflicts while facilitating sustainable conflict resolution.

Based on the Likert scale data in Table 7, a value of 3.47 is obtained, indicating that the community building strategy has significant potential for implementation in addressing conflicts between farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This result indicates that efforts to build community and cooperation can be an effective solution in alleviating conflicts occurring in the area

Tabel 7. Community Building Strategy.

Question	SD	D	A	SA	Average
	1	2	3	4	
Do you believe that the Community Building strategy in Besowo Village is effective in identifying potential conflicts between farmers and stakeholders?	0	0	33	37	3,52
Do you believe that the formation of a sense of community between farmers and stakeholders can reduce tension in relationships in Besowo Village?	0	3	34	33	3,42
Do you believe that the success of the Community Building strategy can enhance mutual understanding between farmers and stakeholders regarding conservation policies and objectives?	0	0	36	34	3,48
Average Total: 3,47					

DISCUSSION

Potential Conflict

Conflict Identification

The research conducted in Desa Besowo resulted in findings indicating the presence of conflict between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This conflict stems from the farmers' activities involving the extraction of forest resources, particularly wood and foliage, which are actually located within the conservation area. This issue reflects the inconsistency between farming activities and conservation efforts implemented by Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Irwandi and Chotim (2017) explain that differences in interests can lead to conflicts, thus institutions must be able to reconcile interests for conflicting parties. These findings provide further understanding of the complexity of conflicts arising from differences in interests between farmers and environmental conservationists.

Social conflict is defined as a social process where individuals or groups strive to achieve their goals by opposing parties, resulting in tension between conflicting interests and values. The conflicts identified during the research can be grouped into two main types. First, there is active participation from farmers in harvesting wood and foliage from the area of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Second, this conflict is closely related to their farming activities, where the need for forest resources is the main driver for farmers to engage in such extraction. This situation reflects the inconsistency between farming activities and conservation efforts implemented by Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Kinasih (2016) explains that forest utilization often leads to various perspectives between local governments and communities, resulting in differing views. The impact of these differing views can be detrimental to forest sustainability and cause significant damage. While local governments may have specific priorities in forest management, community perspectives may encompass various interests and needs that need to be considered. These differences in perspectives can result in damage to the forest ecosystem, highlighting the importance of formulating an inclusive and sustainable approach to achieve understanding and balance between community interests and forest management objectives. Understanding the motives and urgency behind the actions of wood and foliage extraction by farmers is crucial in formulating balanced and sustainable solutions for both parties.

The identification of these conflicts forms a strong basis for formulating resolution strategies that consider the sustainability of farming activities and the conservation of the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve area. Muchtar (2016) states that achieving a balanced solution requires a participatory approach involving all relevant parties, aiming to ensure contributions and perspectives from various stakeholders so that decisions made reflect shared needs and aspirations. This approach can create concrete steps to reduce tension between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve, while also supporting the balance between farmers' economic interests and environmental conservation efforts, which are the goals of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

Source of Conflict

Efforts to mitigate conflicts for the sake of development involve establishing effective communication mechanisms between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. This aligns with the statement by Siregar and Usriyah (2021) indicating that good communication serves not only to convey information but also plays a role in persuading conflicting parties, thus effective communication can encourage conflicting parties to achieve peace. Increasing mutual understanding of policies, regulations, and conservation goals can be the first step towards creating consensus. Additionally, initiatives to hold regular meetings or discussion forums between both parties can help build better relationships, reduce tension, and seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Economic influence also drives conflict. This aligns with Siradjuddin (2015) statement that conflict often arises from economic interests when resources become limited,

competition for access and control over those resources can trigger conflict. The limited natural resources available to farmers can have a negative impact on their economy. Utilization of forest resources in the conservation area becomes an option for farmers to meet their livestock feed needs, leading to tension between the economic interests of farmers and conservation principles. Finally, the urgent need for farmers to meet their livestock needs is one source of conflict. Factors such as difficulty in obtaining alternative feed outside the conservation area can drive farmers to continue extracting resources from protected areas, causing conflict with the management of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

Competition for Access to Resources

The competition arises due to the limited natural resources available to farmers in Desa Besowo. It is evident that the high demand for forest resources such as grass, foliage, and wood by various farmers can create a situation of heightened competition. Therefore, the limitation in the availability of natural resources becomes the primary cause of competition among farmers in meeting their livestock business needs. The issue of competition for access to resources has negative impacts on the sustainability of livestock farming (Amam, et al., 2021). Farmers experiencing competition may struggle to meet their livestock feed needs, resulting in economic and social pressures. Competition intensifies as the number of livestock requiring feed increases, creating prolonged dynamics of competition. Moreover, this competition can also lead to supply instability of resources, which in turn can affect the overall productivity and welfare of farmers. Access competition is one contributing factor to the conflict between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Arifandy and Sihaloho (2016) state that addressing the issue of competition for access to resources requires collaborative efforts and better management from all relevant parties, including farmers, stakeholders, and forest management authorities. Inclusive and sustainability-oriented steps can help create fair and sustainable solutions to maintain a balance between farmers' needs and environmental conservation.

Differences in Values and Norms

The conflicts that arise are related to the different perspectives of each party regarding the management of forest resources in the area. Budimanta (2008) revealed that natural resources essential for human life create a level of complexity in interactions among various parties with interests in their management. Farmers tend to view the forest as a resource that can support their farming activities, while the authorities of Cagar Alam place more emphasis on conservation and environmental protection aspects. Marina and Dharmawan (2011) stated that differences in values can create mismatches in thinking patterns and approaches to forest resources. Farmers who rely on the forest as a source of feed and wood for their farming activities encounter obstacles with the conservation policies implemented by Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. On the other hand, the authorities of Cagar Alam prioritize environmental

conservation, leading to tension in managing and utilizing forest resources. Efforts are needed to understand and respect the differences in values and norms between farmers and conservation authorities. A participatory approach needs to be applied to achieve mutual understanding and formulate solutions that can meet the interests of both parties (Ardoin et al., 2020).

Effective Communication

The conflict situation related to the harvesting of wood and foliage in the area of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve requires a solution based on effective communication. Good communication will help clarify rules, reduce uncertainty, and build mutual understanding between farmers and the authorities of Cagar Alam. Therefore, efforts are needed from the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve to be more proactive in organizing regular meetings and dialogue forums with farmers to create more effective and mutually beneficial communication. Efforts to improve effective and mutually beneficial communication between the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve and farmers require several strategic steps. Firstly, the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve can hold regular meetings with farmers, either in person or through online platforms, to discuss current issues and seek solutions together. Additionally, open dialogue forums can be created to allow farmers to directly express their input, concerns, and ideas to the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The use of technology such as online platforms can facilitate meeting arrangements if meeting in person is not possible. Furthermore, the preparation of agendas for subsequent meetings and the recording of discussion outcomes and agreements reached are also important steps to ensure focus and smooth discussion and provide reference for further follow-up actions (LeBlanc & Nosik, 2019). Amin (2017) states that communication, as a solution to conflict, requires the presence of dominant elements that are always involved in every communication interaction regardless of location, the identities of the parties involved, or the level of relationship. Through this approach, it is hoped that a more conducive communication environment can be created and potential conflicts minimized. The authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve need to realize the importance of involving farmers in the decision-making process regarding the conservation area to produce fair and sustainable solutions.

Factors Causing Conflict

Limakrisna (2011) states that the factors causing conflicts involve dual roles, competition in obtaining resources, unresolved previous conflicts, as well as differences in goals, perceptions, understandings, and values among the parties involved. This indicates that the views and interpretations of both parties regarding the extraction of natural resources vary, leading to tension and potential conflicts between them. The differing understandings between farmers and the conservation area management occur because they have different perspectives regarding the extraction of wood and foliage

in the area of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Farmers view the extraction of wood and foliage as a source of materials for their farming activities, such as animal feed and livestock pens. On the other hand, the management of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve sees this extraction as a threat to the environmental conservation and ecosystem within the area. Additionally, there is ambiguity in the rules and regulations concerning the extraction of forest resources in the conservation area. Farmers feel that the lack of understanding about the applicable regulations and restrictions can trigger conflicts. The involvement of farmers in the policy-making process and the creation of more transparent rules are key to addressing these differing perceptions (Blomkamp et al., 2018).

Another contributing factor to the conflict is the lack of communication and coordination between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. According to Isparwoto (2012), insufficient communication can lead to potential conflicts; a shortage in information exchange and understanding can create misunderstandings and disagreements among the involved parties, thus increasing the risk of conflict. The lack of regular meetings or dialogue forums limits the understanding between the parties, making it difficult to reach mutual agreements. Muqdamien (2020) suggests that both parties have the potential to reach a mutually beneficial agreement, which would have a positive impact on their relationship. Therefore, increasing the intensity of communication and dialogue should be prioritized in building a better relationship to address the factors contributing to conflict. It requires joint efforts between farmers and the authorities of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Processes such as aligning perceptions, formulating clearer rules, and enhancing communication can be strategic steps to alleviate tension and promote the sustainability of farming activities and environmental conservation.

Impact of Conflict

Muqdamien (2020) states that conflict creates an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty, damaging the collaboration that should occur for the sustainability of both parties. Conflict also negatively impacts the preservation of Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The harvesting of forest resources, such as wood and foliage, by farmers can threaten the biodiversity and ecosystems within the conservation area. Conflict hampers the achievement of conservation goals and the preservation of nature.

The economic and social impacts are also felt by farmers due to this conflict. The potential for sanctions or restrictions on the harvesting of forest resources creates economic pressure. Social tensions between farmers and the conservation authorities can affect psychological well-being and have negative consequences for the sustainability of farming livelihoods.

Conflict can create instability in resource supply for farmers. Restrictions or bans on the harvesting of wood and foliage can adversely affect farming efforts in terms of meeting livestock feed needs. Difficulty in accessing these resources can impact livestock productivity and threaten their business sustainability. However, the

prohibition on the harvesting of leaves and wood by Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve is a standing regulation. This rule aims to preserve Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Therefore, conflicts that arise should be addressed with an approach that considers conservation interests while understanding the needs and challenges faced by farmers. Fair and sustainable solutions can be found through dialogue, cooperation, and the development of strategies involving both parties.

Addressing the impacts of conflict also requires cooperation between farmers and stakeholders in Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Active involvement from both parties in seeking mutually beneficial solutions will be crucial. Therefore, dialogues and meetings between farmers and stakeholders are necessary to achieve mutual understanding and formulate concrete actions in addressing the impacts of the conflict.

Community Building Strategies for Managing Potential Conflict

Hyde, et al. (2007) defines community building as a series of practices aimed at creating or enhancing a sense of togetherness among individuals or groups within a specific area or with shared needs or interests. Brien (2007) argues that integrated strategies of community building and conflict resolution play a crucial role in addressing potential conflicts. Research findings from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted on May 10, 2023, and interviews with farmers and stakeholders indicate that community building strategies can be an effective solution in managing potential conflicts between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The first step in designing a community building strategy is to understand the needs, interests, and expectations of both parties. With a strong understanding, the community building strategy can be designed to reflect shared values and norms that are acceptable to all parties.

Lazarus, et al. (2016) demonstrate that the approach of community building strategies can be implemented in various ways, including a deep understanding of the benefits and goals of community building efforts. Community building strategies focus on fostering a positive sense of community among farmers and stakeholders, including the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The community building strategy emphasizes the importance of involving all relevant parties in the decision-making process (Brien, 2007). Participation mechanisms should be designed to create space for all parties to contribute and communicate openly. At the same time, it is important to build mutual trust between farmers and the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The importance of holding regular meetings between farmers and stakeholders also creates opportunities to discuss developments, policy changes, or issues that arise directly. These meetings can foster a sense of unity and enhance shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by both parties.

The formation of working groups or committees involving farmers and stakeholders is a key point in the community building strategy. Yudarwati (2004) explains that working groups can provide a platform for discussion, information sharing, and formulation of joint policies that can accommodate the needs of both parties. Thus, collaboration between farmers and stakeholders can be enhanced, opening the way for more effective problem-solving.

Benefits and Goals of Community Building Strategy

This research explores several benefits and targets expected from the implementation of Community Building Strategy (CBS) in identifying and managing potential conflicts between farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Antorini and Muñiz (2013) state that the benefits of community building include enhancing communication and collaboration among members or groups by fostering better relationships, which can lead to open and effective communication between both parties. The main benefit of CBS is evident in the effort to establish a sense of community. Hall and Panarese (2016) emphasize that the benefits of community building also include creating a sense of ownership and strong relationships among community members. More than just enhancing social interaction, the strength of a close-knit community can be a primary source for information exchange and assistance. Mcmillan and Chavis (1986) explain that a sense of community involves a feeling of ownership among members, recognizing each other's importance within the group, and having a shared belief that members' needs will be met through collective commitment. Forming a sense of community involves building solidarity, which is expected to increase the involvement and participation of farmers and stakeholders in environmental conservation efforts.

Identified benefits include improved communication and mutual understanding, aligning with the initial targets of CBS. This positive response provides a strong foundation to proceed to the implementation phase of CBS with confidence that this strategy has significant potential in managing conflicts in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Additionally, CBS aims to strengthen social relationships among farmers and stakeholders. Through community-building activities, better communication, and increased trust, it is expected that relationships between individuals and groups can become more harmonious, creating a supportive environment. This aligns with Kusworo's (2019) statement that the participation process is designed to provide opportunities for members to engage in planning discussions from the outset. The importance of enhancing interaction and information exchange also becomes the focus of CBS. By facilitating more efficient information exchange, CBS can reduce misunderstandings between parties, find platforms for open discussion, and optimize collaborative potential.

The targets of CBS are to foster unity and shared understanding among farmers and stakeholders. This aligns with Kusworo's (2019) statement that by building trust, strengthening relationships, and providing opportunities for individuals to provide advice or suggestions, conflicts can be resolved by all involved parties. The positive response from respondents indicates that CBS is considered a relevant approach and is expected to make a positive contribution to strained relationships. The strategic targets of CBS include forming a sense of community, active participation in decision-making related to natural resource management, improving communication, and creating a harmonious environment. CBS is directed at involving all parties in the decision-making process, easing tensions through regular meetings, and creating an

open communication environment. Thus, the benefits and targets of CBS are expected to provide a strong foundation for managing potential conflicts and strengthening relationships between farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

Community Building Strategy Mechanism

This research explores concrete steps proposed to implement the Community Building Strategy (CBS) in the context of managing potential conflicts between farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. The results of interviews with farmers and stakeholders yielded positive responses regarding the mechanisms of CBS. The positive response from respondents indicates that CBS mechanisms are considered relevant and aligned with their needs and expectations in managing potential conflicts. Community building mechanisms serve as an essential foundation in executing the community building strategy by bringing community members together, fostering positive relationships, and enhancing social interactions (Lazarus, et al., 2016). The CBS mechanisms offered include the formation of a sense of community, active involvement in decision-making, and the improvement of communication and regular meetings. The positive response from respondents reflects their understanding of these values in addressing conflicts. Although not yet implemented, these mechanisms are considered appropriate steps and are expected to have a positive impact when applied.

One of the key mechanisms of CBS is the formation of a sense of community by making efforts to foster unity among farmers and stakeholders, thus creating a sense of ownership over decisions related to natural resource management in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Through activities such as training or social events, individuals and groups are expected to feel actively involved in building solidarity. Furthermore, CBS proposes active participation in decision-making as a crucial mechanism. Reed (2008) shows the importance of stakeholder participation in managing community environments. Farmers and stakeholders are invited to be directly involved in the decision-making process related to natural resource management. This active involvement is believed to increase accountability, reduce uncertainty, and create more sustainable decisions.

Improving communication is also a focus of CBS mechanisms. Through the use of communication tools such as suggestion boxes or online platforms, efficient exchange of ideas and grievances is expected to occur. This mechanism opens up space for open discussions, helps alleviate tension, and builds shared understanding. Additionally, CBS emphasizes the importance of regular meetings as a mechanism to strengthen interactions between farmers and stakeholders. These meetings can serve as platforms to convey information, discuss current issues, and build closer relationships between farmers and stakeholders (Zikargae et al., 2022). Thus, the proposed CBS mechanisms in this study include the formation of a sense of community, active participation, improved communication, and regular meetings. These mechanisms are expected to

serve as concrete guidelines in implementing CBS to manage potential conflicts in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

Development of Participation Mechanisms

The development of participation mechanisms begins with identifying the involved parties, including farmers, stakeholders, and various related groups. Through interviews and discussions, the appropriate level of participation for each group is determined by identifying the involved parties such as farmers, the community, conservationists, and authorities to ensure balanced representation in decision-making processes related to natural resource management. This aligns with Atkinson and Willis (2006) emphasizing the importance of building robust community forums and community development strategies for management. The next step in developing participation mechanisms is designing platforms or forums that support interaction and collaboration among relevant parties, including creating discussion spaces, organizing regular meetings, or even establishing joint working groups. This aims to provide facilities that facilitate contributions and active participation from all parties. Reed (2008) demonstrates the importance of stakeholder participation in managing a community environment. The development of participation mechanisms in CBS aims to increase the active involvement of farmers and stakeholders in decision-making related to natural resource management in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Interview results show that respondents gave positive responses to the participation concept proposed in CBS. This positive response reflects the respondents' understanding and awareness of the importance of participation in managing conflicts. Although not yet implemented, participation mechanisms in CBS are considered relevant steps and are expected to make a positive contribution to the sustainability of farming practices and environmental conservation in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve. Additionally clear and transparent participation guidelines need to be developed. These guidelines include decision-making processes, rights and obligations of each party, and conflict resolution mechanisms if needed. The development of these guidelines aims to create a fair and organized participatory environment. The importance of training and capacity building is also part of the development of participation mechanisms (Chauhan et al., 2022). Involved parties need to be empowered with the necessary knowledge and skills to participate effectively, including communication training, collaboration skills, and in-depth understanding. By detailing these aspects, the development of participation mechanisms in CBS is expected to create a strong basis for engaging all relevant parties in decision-making related to natural resource management in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

Building Trusting Relationships

Building trust begins with identifying potential barriers to trust formation. These factors involve aspects such as perceptual differences, regulatory ambiguity, and past conflict history. By identifying these factors, specific steps can be designed to

address any emerging barriers. Tampubolon (2020) emphasizes the importance of open and honest communication as the primary focus in building trust relationships, encouraging involved parties to share information transparently, including plans, objectives, and policies that may affect them, to create deeper understanding and more effective collaboration. Hyde and Chavis (2007) suggest that community building involves a series of steps and activities aimed at strengthening social bonds and active participation within the community. Furthermore, building trust relationships also involves concrete steps such as developing a shared understanding of cultural differences and values that may influence perceptions. Syamaun (2019) identifies cultural differences that can affect perceptions, including differences in communication styles, thought patterns, daily habits, and values upheld by each culture. Rumahuru and Gaspersz (2021) highlight the importance of building trust relationships within groups and communities during conflicts. Efforts to build trust relationships in SCB are aimed at creating a strong foundation for effective cooperation between farmers and stakeholders. Although not yet implemented, the positive responses found in interviews indicate that respondents recognize the importance of building trust relationships as a critical step in addressing existing conflicts. The positive response from respondents reflects the understanding and acceptance of the importance of trust by both farmers and stakeholders in the context of conflict management efforts. Although currently in the offering stage, trust-building is expected to provide a strong foundation for further implementation of SCB. Thus, building trust relationships in SCB aims to create a strong basis for positive and collaborative interactions between farmers and stakeholders. Building trust relationships involves efforts to enhance positive and collaborative interactions between farmers with economic interests and stakeholders with environmental conservation interests, including activities such as open dialogue, transparent information sharing, and building shared understanding of the needs and objectives of each party. These efforts are expected to help reduce tension, enhance cooperation, and achieve sustainability in natural resource management in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve.

CONCLUSIONS

The potential for conflict between livestock farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve has been analyzed during the research by identifying causative factors such as lack of communication, differences in perception, and unclear regulations. A conflict management strategy through a community building approach is proposed as a proactive solution. Concrete steps include fostering a sense of community, active involvement in decision-making, continuous communication, and regular meetings. Communication tools such as suggestion boxes or online platforms are proposed to facilitate the efficient exchange of ideas and complaints with the aim of easing tensions and creating a harmonious environment between livestock farmers and stakeholders. The implementation of the community building

strategy is expected to effectively manage potential conflicts, create a balance in the use of natural resources, and strengthen relationships between livestock farmers and stakeholders in the Besowo Gadungan Nature Reserve

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank all those who have helped carry out this research, especially the Chair of the Besowo Natural Reserve who has permitted this research, and the Institute for Research and Community Service at Brawijaya University

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