

THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITION OF PROHIBITED FOREST TO PAGERWUNUNG NATURE RESERVE ON CHANGES IN URBAN LEGEND IN DARUPONO VILLAGE KALIWUNGU KENDAL IN 2004

Risa Nur Sikhah¹
Ita Dwijayanti²

UIN Salatiga, Indonesia¹
UIN Salatiga, Indonesia²

itadwijayanti@uinsalatiga.ac.id

Abstracts

Known as the forbidden forest, in 1965 it was used as a massacre place for people accused by the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). This gives the impression of being haunted and gives birth to myths that develop in society. In 2004, the Kendal Regency government and Perhutani collaborated in the process of changing the name of the prohibited forest to a nature reserve. This research aims to find out the history and process of transitioning prohibited forests into nature reserve areas, in order to obtain several factors that influence the transition, as well as the impact felt by the surrounding community regarding urban legends related to Kendal Regency. The method used in this research is a historical-qualitative method, which consists of heuristics (data collection by interviewing related parties and also collecting sources of oral history of the Kendal community, namely urban legends), verification (critique of sources, this is done by limiting observations research so that the focus is on the three objectives of this research carried out), interpretation (analysis carried out by creating a structured narrative whose truth and novelty can be accounted for), and historiography (carried out to convey the results of observations in three chapter discussions which will be completed in approximately 2-6 months). The results of the research show that before and after being converted into a nature reserve area, this place had the impact and beliefs of urban legends that were formed by the surrounding community based on certain age groups. The process of transitioning prohibited forests into nature reserve areas is in accordance with Minister of Forestry Decree Number: SK. 115/Menhut-II/2004 as a nature reserve area. Until 2024, the percentage of visitors in the nature reserve area will increase to 45% with many sellers around the nature reserve. This shows that promoting historical tourism with positive urban legends can attract visitors and increase regional income and the income of the surrounding community.

Keywords: *Nature preserve, History of Kendal, Urban Legend*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has a variety of nature reserves that display extraordinary natural riches. The nature reserve includes various ecosystems such as tropical rainforests, mangrove forests, volcanoes and protected marine areas. Some examples of nature reserves in Indonesia include the Maninjau Nature Reserve in Agam, West Sumatra,

the Ijen Crater Nature Reserve in Banyuwangi, East Java, the Anak Krakatau Nature Reserve in the Sunda Strait, Lampung.

South Kaliwungu region, Kendal Regency, precisely in Darupono Village, there is a dense teak forest. This giant teak tree is hundreds of years old, which has a large diameter. Forests are a wealth of natural resources that provide many great benefits for the lives of humans and other living creatures. One of the important elements in human life is forests, in fact forests are called the lungs of the world which produce oxygen.¹

In contrast to the nature reserve located in Kaliwungu, it has a unique history. Originally known as the forbidden forest, this place holds important stories in local history and culture. Known as the forbidden forest, this place was previously used as a massacre site for people accused of belonging to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) in 1965. Over time, these restricted forests were converted into nature reserves, representing a significant change in the outlook and protection of the environment

Geographical conditions and feasibility studies are one of the factors that cause the transition of restricted forests into nature reserves. The government has a very important role in developing forest management strategies, because forests in Indonesia are controlled by the state. Utilization of forests to be managed by private parties, increasing production forests and even changing the function of the forests themselves.²

The topic of changing the function of restricted forests into nature reserves is very interesting to discuss, because this is the first time this phenomenon has occurred in Kendal. This transition in phenomena reflects changes in views of the natural environment and conservation policies. This illustrates how an area that was once protected and preserved its myths can be turned back into a nature reserve with a stronger focus on nature conservation and tourism. The study of transitions such as

¹Hasanu Simon, *Hutan Jati dan Kemakmuran: Problematika dan Strategi pemecahannya* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2006), hlm. 1.

²Hafidah, *Politik Lingkungan: Studi tentang Perubahan Status Hutan Lindung menjadi Kawasan Wisata di Kecamatan Tanete Riattang Timur Kabupaten Bone* (Makasar, 2020), hlm. 3

these provides valuable insights into how environmental policy may evolve over time, as well as the future management of natural resources.

DISCUSSION

A. Condition of the Darupono Prohibited Forest

The Kaliwungu area, Kendal Regency, precisely in Darupono Village, has a dense teak forest. This giant Darupono teak tree is hundreds of years old, this teak tree has a large diameter with a trunk circumference reaching 845 cm. Forests and communities are two types of ethnicity that cannot be separated. This is what happened in the Darupono community regarding the Darupono Prohibited Forest. The Darupono people consider the forest as food, water as their blood, and rocks as their bones. This is proven by not polluting in or around the forest. The people of Darupono uphold the value of harmony between residents, by tying all their daily activities to the existence of the forbidden forest around them. The Darupono Teak Forest is one of the sources of wealth owned by the residents of Darupono Village. This forest holds a collection of teak trees that are old and have a large diameter.



Figure 1. Location of Kendal in Central Java

The Soeharto government gave an order to carry out crime cleansing on a large scale. The mysterious shooting carried out a clean-up method by taking it secretly, then shooting it and throwing it away without the perpetrator being known for certain, because the perpetrators were trained troops from the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI). Apart from the cruel execution of the perpetrators of these crimes,

there are several strange stories experienced by the people of Darupono Village. The forest looks darker at night, like forests in general, the mysterious shooting team, or more familiarly known as Petrus, already has several lists of criminals who will be executed later. Marto (69 years old), one of Peter's troops, took his team to a large forest with the help of a truck that accommodated them. In the end they stopped at a place, people called it Darupono.

The teak forest located in Darupono Village was the choice of Peter's troops to execute targets or people accused of being PKI. There was a hole that had been prepared by Peter's troops. Two trucks took them to the teak forest with 28 people on board. The sound of gunfire echoed repeatedly in the middle of the forest, the targets were shot more than once, the shots were aimed at the chest and head area.³

The Darupono Forest was the site of massacres of people accused of being PKI in Central Java. There are two mass graves in the forest. This mass massacre was carried out based on information circulating that many PKI members were spread across the northern coast of Java Island, and the Kaliwungu area of Kendal Regency was one of them. It is not surprising that the massacre of those suspected of being PKI followers was carried out in this forest area.

The consequences of a massacre of a PKI in 1965 became a heartbreaking tragedy throughout history in the Kendal Regency area. Pieces of memory are still recorded very clearly and neatly in the memories of the people of Darupono. The residents of Darupono Village believe in the myths that have developed around them, one of which is the appearance of a row of headless people. Many events occurred after the massacre.

B. Procession of Converting Prohibited Forest to Nature Reserve

Government Regulation (PP) Number 104 of 2015 concerning how to change the designation and function of forest areas, also regulates how changes in the function of forest areas are carried out to determine and optimize the function of forest areas. In this PP, changes in the function of forest areas are carried out in the

³Supar (71), eyewitness to the execution of PKI people, in the Darupono Teak Forest, Kendal, Central Java

Darupono Prohibited Forest area to become a nature reserve. Changing a prohibited forest area into a production forest area or nature reserve is carried out with the provisions that, a) it does not meet all the criteria for being a protected/prohibited forest; b) fulfill as a production forest area or nature reserve.

One of the efforts made by the government to convert restricted forests into nature reserves is by carrying out forest rehabilitation activities for species enrichment through planting various types of forest plants. Preparations to make the forest a tourist attraction have been made, including visiting comparative studies to similar tourist attractions outside the area. The nature reserve was previously a teak forest that experienced natural succession. The potential for biodiversity and ecosystems in the Pagerwunung Nature Reserve area can be utilized for natural tourism activities carried out in the context of sustainable use of biological natural resources and their ecosystems.

C. Condition of Pagerwunung Nature Reserve, Darupono Village

Pagerwunung Darupono Nature Reserve is one of the nature reserves in the Central Java region, precisely in Kendal Regency. Pagerwunung Nature Reserve is famous for its location of teak trees that are hundreds of years old, and have a large size. The Pagerwunung Nature Reserve is located in the Darupono Village area, Kaliwungu District, Kendal Regency. Since 2004 it has been designated as a nature reserve area in accordance with the Decree of the Minister of Forestry Number: SK. 115/Menhut-II/2004. The area of the nature reserve is around 33.2 Ha. Located in a lowland area with an altitude of between 150-175 meters above sea level and has a latasol type of soil. This nature reserve has its official name as Pagerwunung Nature Reserve, this nature reserve is managed by the Central Java BKSDA and is surrounded by the Kendal Perhutani HAS area, the HAS functions as a buffer zone for the nature reserve.

Kendal Regency's potential can be utilized to support the community's economy and invite investors to invest their capital. Regarding the Pagerwunung Nature Reserve, with the arrival of Commission IV DPR RI, Regent Mirna hopes that the Pagerwunung Nature Reserve area can be managed well and can be used as a

tourist area visited by many tourists, so that people living around this area can enjoy its benefits.



Figure 2 Pagerwunung Nature Reserve, Darupono, Kaliwungu, Kendal

CONCLUSION

The transition of a prohibited forest into the Pagerwunung Nature Reserve is not a simple and easy event to carry out. The government, especially the forestry sector and the people of Darupono, are seriously considering the forest transition procession. Over time, areas that are believed to be haunted and believed in myths will be transformed into livelier places visited by many tourists. Through the Decree of the Minister of Forestry Number: SK. 115/Menhut-II/2004 officially transferred to a nature reserve area by the forestry government of Kendal Regency.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hafidah. 2020. "*Studi Tentang Perubahan Status Hutan Lindung Menjadi Kawasan Wisata di Kecamatan Tanete Raittang Timur Kabupaten Bone.*" Skripsi.

Simon Hasanu. 2006. "*Hutan Jati dan Kemakmuran: Problematika dan Strategi Pemecahannya.*" Skripsi.

<https://jatengprov.go.id/beritadaerah/kawasan-cagar-alam-darupono-kendal-bakal-jadi-agrowisata/> diakses pada tanggal 11 Mei 2024

https://ppid.menlhk.go.id/siaran_pers/browse/1391 diakses pada tanggal 11 Mei 2024