ABSTRACT


The establishment process of Gunung Halimun-Salak National Park resulted in tenurial insecurity for local people, farmers, and hunters. This condition leads to the open conflict between locals and the government. The aims of this study are 1) to identify the sources and the types of conflict as well as the factors that influence the conflict; 2) to analyze the conflict from institutional aspect, and 3) to evaluate the existing ecotourism development, its performance in implementing the ideal criteria of ecotourism concept and its implication to the existing conflict.

Using a qualitative study research method, this study employs two conceptual approach. They are institutionalist tenure security and ecotourism concepts. Three main analytical methods that used to achieve the aims of this study are: 1) conflict analysis; 2) institutional analysis (consist of stakeholder’s analysis, policy analysis, and need analysis); and 3) performance analysis of the existing ecotourism development.

The results of the study indicated that rights and access have been the main sources of conflict. Rights, access, or both have caused the same type of conflict, open conflict. From institutional aspect, it can be identified that the conflict rises due to the establishment process of the national park. It does not base on collective perception of the stakeholders. The existing institution could not resolve the conflict because the stakeholders have failed to reach a decision on what kind of property regime they should agree on. Moreover, implementation process of the existing policies does not provide sufficient mechanism for Balai Taman Nasional Gunung Halimun-Salak to get support from the stakeholders due to lack of knowledge on related policies, resources, and administrative matters.

It is proved empirically that ecotourism has the role in resolving conflict on access by providing job opportunity and additional income for the locals. Furthermore, as an operational concept of sustainable development, ecotourism has become one the ways for national park to achieve their conservation program. In addition, through the development process of ecotourism, stakeholders could build constructive communication and collaboration. Hence, it is also proved empirically that ecotourism can be used as a media for conflict resolution. Unfortunately, this role could not be achieved properly because the ecotourism development in the case study does not fulfill the ideal criteria of ecotourism concept.

To improve the implication of ecotourism development on the conflict of access, the existing condition of institution should be enhanced. This study recommend 1) to increase the role and the capacity of stakeholders and 2) to reconstruct and establish the rule of game as well as the division of rights and responsibilities among the stakeholders to manage the natural resources.

Keywords: institution, ecotourism, conflict, and national park