

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Sustainable Development Goals has become one of the phenomena that should become the priorities for nowadays generations as one of the SDG's main issues that commonly discussed is the SDGs on the environments. Forests belong to the critically endangered resources in the world and thus it should be protected since human survival and well-being ultimately rests on the natural resources of the planet. Forests cover about a third of the world's land area and provide a wide range of essential ecosystem services for human well-being and sustainable development worldwide.¹ Over the ages, human beings evolved and developed their ways of life in various ways. There were no endings to human satisfaction on claimed more lands over the ages. The environment cannot preserve unlimited resources, it needs long time to rehabilitate the to its prime condition.²

¹ Pia Katila, Carol J. Pierce Corfel, Wil de Jong, Glenn Galoway, Pablo Pacheco, Georg Winkel, 2019, *Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People*, Cambridge University Press Page. 23

² Puja Mondal "The Impact of Environment on Society"
<https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/society/the-impact-of-environment-on-society-1852-words/6153>
accessed on 12 October 2020 at 15:42 Pm

The total forest area worldwide, previously estimated at 4 billion hectares, has decreased alarmingly in the last few decades. However, the rate of deforestation and loss of forest from natural causes has slowed down from 16 million hectares per year in the 1990s to around 13 million hectares per year in the last decade. Nevertheless, the forest areas varies from one region to another, in North America, Europe, and Asia for example, it has increased in the past two decades (1990-2010) but in other regions such as Africa and Central and South America, and to a lesser extent Oceania the forests have decreased.³

Indonesia Forest is placed in the third-largest forest density globally.⁴ With its large forest density percentage, Indonesia became one of the international corporations' targets on its natural resources. The demands for it should be at a high rate. Moreover, Indonesia also had a high density of people's population. With the increased population, there is also the increased rural area. The more rural area that grew, the more forest density will also decrease because the demand for forest resources will also increase. Since the forest is seen as a fundamental component of life for millions of rural inhabitants, governments have viewed forests as income sources. The timber industry has been a vital contributor to the national income and has supported the direct

³ Jorge Martín-García, Julio Javier Diez, 2012 "Sustainable Forest Management: An Introduction and Overview" University of Valladolid – INIA, Palencia

⁴Nurul Ariffin "Bagaimana Hutan Indonesia Sebagai Paru-Paru Dunia di Masa Depan" <https://www.goodnewsfromindonesia.id/2018/01/12/bagaimana-hutan-indonesia-sebagai-paru-paru-dunia-di-masa-depan>, accessed on 28 September 2020 at 10:00 Am

development of urban areas of most South and Southeast Asian nations. In this case, Indonesian government cannot see the forest as just for a source of economic income, but it should be seen as the future asset for the next generations. The Government should take serious action to maintain its forest area in a good balance. One of the ways to keep the forest area to be balanced is to establish a good law instrument---a regulation made by the government to decrease forest destruction.

Hundred years ago, Indonesia possessed forest resources overwhelmingly. The trees filled approximately 80-95 percent of Indonesia forest. The prediction of experts says that Indonesia possessed ± 170 billion ha. Nowadays, its forest remains only 98 billion ha, it means half of the total forests area had been demolished by humans' activities⁵ The figure from the department of forestry shows that between the 1970s and 1990s, deforestation and forest degradation were very much associated with commercial logging activities. It is estimated that over that period, the forest cover decreased from 74% to 56% of the country; the trends of deforestation in Indonesia has always increased over the years. There were 444,000 ha/year during the period 2000-2003, doubling to about 918,000 ha/year during 2007-2009, and then about

⁵ Restu Achmaliadi, I.G. Maha Adi, Y. Martin Hardiono, Hariadi Kartodihardjo, Fachrurrazi CH. Malley, Dominggus A. Mampioper, E.G. Togu Manurung, Abdon Nababan, Lyndon B. Pangkali, A. Ruwindrijarto, Lisken L.M. Situmorang, Wardiyono, 2001, *Keadaan Hutan Indonesia* Forest, Watch Indonesia, p. 30.

780,000 ha/year during 2011-2012.⁶ Forest loss in Indonesia rose 50% in the first 20 weeks of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Analysis of the same data by WWF Germany found that in March alone, forest clearance in Indonesia increased 130% compared to the three-year average for March 2017 to 2019 with an estimated of 130,000 hectares razed – the greatest recorded loss of any country that month⁷. The data shows that there was a high percentage increased throughout the years on deforestation in Indonesia. These data reveal that the deforestation just as the impact of illegal logging alone, not including the loss of forests because of natural disasters that happened throughout the years.

The initiatives to take on SDGs on Forests cannot be upheld by only research and studies. A more powerful instrument that supports the initiatives on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on forests should be established. The initiatives of government became the key to solving the issues, the government should take different action that support the principles of sustainable Development Goals on the environments. The trend of today issue was the establishment of many regulations such as job creation regulation (Omnibus

⁶ Luca Tacconi, Rafael J. Rodrigues, Ahmad Maryudi “Law enforcement and deforestation: Lessons for Indonesia from Brazil’ Forest Policy and Economics, Vol. 108, (2019), p. 6.

⁷ Chloé Farand “Forest destruction spiked in Indonesia during coronavirus lockdown” <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/08/18/forest-destruction-spiked-indonesia-coronavirus-lockdown/> accessed on 10 october 2020 at 10:00 Am

Law),the policy on the movement of capital city to east Borneo that against the term “Forest Protection”⁸,

The data shows that, the majority of Indonesia’s government initiatives do not support the environmental aspect, majority the step of government taken lately is focusing on inviting an international investor to established their businesses more and more every single year. In 2018, East Kalimantan lost nearly 1.5 million acres of primary forest, a 42 percent increase in deforestation from the year before, according to the World Resource Institute.⁹ With the data alone it was quite predictable that the government have ignored the environmental aspects by the name of the economic growth.

The Constitution of Indonesia in article 33 verse 3 has stated that “Land, waters, and the environmental resources that included in it was owned by the state to be used for the welfare of its people.” The state has guaranteed that all of the environmental resources will be used for the welfare of its people. The constitution was giving a right to the peoples that they were guaranteed to be preserved with a good environment. The fact today, however, Indonesian government with it all initiatives has acted against the will of the constitution to protect the environment. The situation signifies that the state has failed to

⁸ The Law Number 11 of 2020 on Jobs Creation

⁹ Linda Poon “Why Indonesia's Capital Move Has Environmentalists Worried” <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-26/indonesia-s-capital-move-worries-environmentalists> accessed on 10 October 2020 at 01:00 Am

meet the purpose of the constitution or it can be said that the initiatives that have been taken lately by Indonesia's government were unconstitutional and need to be revised for the welfare of its people.

Although there have been many researches on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Forest Management published in National and International journal, this research offers new perspective on the impact of Indonesian government initiatives onto the implementation of the SDG realization in term of forest management. It explains the effectiveness of Indonesian Government decision regarding the forest management, based on the theory and principles of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

B. Research Problem

Based on the background that has been described, the problems to be discussed by the author are:

1. What are the initiatives that have been taken by the Government of Indonesia to realize SGDs in forest management?
2. Whether those initiatives adequate enough to realize SDGs in forest management or not?

C. Research Objective

1. To find out the initiatives of Indonesia Government for realizing of SDGs in forest management.

2. To analyzed whether the forest management that implemented in Indonesia is in-line with the goals of SDGs principles or not.

D. Research Benefit

This research is conducted in the hope that it would provide several benefits as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The research gives an understanding about the concept on how the initiatives of states affects their forests environment towards the Issues of Sustainable Development Goals on forest management under the environmental law.

2. Practical Benefit

The research provides a better understanding to implement the concept on how the state should act on the protection of the forest environment under the environmental law.