



## Background

Sumberjaya located along the west coast of Sumatra and forms the upper watersheds of all major rivers on the island. The subdistrict of 55.000 ha almost coincides with the Way Besar upper watershed. The population was about 87.350 people in 2004, resulting in a population density of about 161 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. About 40 % of the sub district is classified as "protection forest" and about 10 % as National Park. Nevertheless about 70 % of the area is now covered by coffee gardens. Sumberjaya is a benchmark for conflicts of forest watershed functions in Indonesia, and has witnessed one of the most intensive 'eviction' episodes, increasing poverty of squatter families. Current research suggests that these evictions ('punishing upland people and their environmental services' = PUPES) have been based on an incomplete understanding of the underlying issues. Getting the watershed functions right in Sumberjaya can not only solve a local problem, but also have substantial exemplary value.



## RUPES Project

RUPES goal is to explore and develop ways to preserve ecological services by rewarding the upland people who provide them.



### RUPES Activities:

- Policy dialogues and negotiations
- Empowering farmers groups
- Technical assistances
- Capacity building
- Communication strategy
- Supported by technical research from others projects



## Reward Mechanism

### 1. Conditional Land Right Trough Community Forestry (HKm)

Land tenure can be an attractive incentive (reward) for farmers to get engaged in sustainable management of protected forest land. The HKm permits granted land rights to the farmers for a 5-year trial period, with possible extensions to beyond 25 years, if they promised to planting multistrata trees, conserving remaining natural forest, and practicing conservation techniques.



At the July 2006, 18 farmer groups received community forestry permits. This increase the area covered by them from 1,367 ha to 11,633 ha (70% of the protection forest now covered by conditional land use permits). Nearly 6.400 farmers now have permits.

### 2. RiverCare Group

With RUPES help, members from the community around the hydropower reservoir have organized themselves into the RiverCare group, taking on responsibility for producing clean water for electrical generation.



#### RiverCare Group Activities :

- Reduce Runoff Speed and Trap sediment on Path Road
- Control sedimentation and water flow from upper watershed
- Increase ground water table for surrounding areas.

#### Agreement of Reward Reducing Sediment

RUPES as the stand-in buyer and RiverCare as the seller have crafted an agreement that clearly spells out the level of measurable sediment reduction required for specified payment amounts:

- \$700 for a 20 to 30% reduction
- \$1,000 for a reduction of 30% or more
- \$500 for a 10 to 20% reduction
- \$250 for a less than 10% reduction

### 3. Soil Conservation Group

RUPES supported by EEPSEA is conducting a water and soil conservation program involving the community as environmental services providers.

An experimental environmental service reward scheme is being tested by providing cash money as the incentive. A series of conservation auctions were performed in capturing the farmers' willingness to accept in joining a conservation program.

Starting in December 2006, the contract is valid for 1-year with monitoring and evaluation activities every 3 months. The agreed term of payment is 50% in the beginning of the contract and 50% at the end with the indication of contract cancellation and sanction decided with the full participation of the communities .



#### Conservation Agreement

Conservation activities contracted:

1. Sediment pits :
  - 300 pits per hectare
  - Dimension: L:100cm x.W:50cm x H:40 cm
2. Ridging: 50% from coffee line
3. Vegetation strips around the pits and terrace

