

Research Article

Policy Analysis in Efforts to Control and Prevent Forest and Land Fires

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Email: jujurnalmail@gmail.com**Abstract**

Forest and Land Fires or karhutla is the event of burning forests and/or land, either naturally or by human action, resulting in losses in several sectors of life, including the sectors of life including Ogan Komering Ilir Regency (OKI). This research aims to analyze efforts to control and prevent karhutla in OKI Regency. The results showed that the factors that caused forest and land fires in OKI Regency are natural problems and the results of human actions that can occur every year, especially in OKI Regency which there is a lot of peat. So that an effective policy is needed to overcome the problem. This researcher recommends the need for improvement in karhutla policy, strengthening public awareness, inter-sector coordination and peatland development. With the right actions, it is hoped that it can control and prevent forest and land fires in OKI District and surrounding areas.

Keywords: Policy, Land, Forest Fires

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INTRODUCTION

Forest and land fires (abbreviated as karhutla) or wild fires are events of burning forests and / or land, either naturally or by human actions, resulting in environmental damage that causes ecological, economic, socio-cultural and political losses. The problem of forest and land fires in Indonesia has become an annual routine disaster. Every year, forest and land fires occur in several provinces in Indonesia, although the small number and extent of fires vary from year to year.

During the January-August 2023 period, the indication of the area of forest and land fires (karhutla) in Indonesia has reached 267,935.59 hectares (KLKH, 2023). Cumulatively, the area of national forest and land fires for the January-August 2023 period has exceeded forest and land fires throughout 2022. This means that the intensity of fires this year is higher than last year. According to the Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM), this year's forest and land fires have the potential to increase because there is an El Niño weather phenomenon that is drier than in previous years. During the dry season, one of the concerns is the symptoms of El Nino. El Niño occurs due to rising sea level temperatures in the Pacific. If the sea level temperature rise is more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, then Indonesia will experience a strong El Niño which results in drought. in general, the impact of El Niño is dry conditions and reduced rainfall which increases the potential for catastrophic land and forest fires (BRGM, 2023). Forest and land fires (karhutla) in Kalimantan and Sumatra are mostly in peatland areas based on the statement of the Head of the BNPB Disaster Information and Communication Data Center Abdul Muhari at the Disaster Briefing program last August 14, 2023.

Ogan Ilir Regency is one of the regencies located in South Sumatra Province with the area of Ogan Komering Ilir Regency (OIC) is 17,071 square kilometers (Central Bureau of Statistics Ogan Ilir Regency, 2024). The percentage of peatland in Ogan Komering Ilir District (OIC) of South Sumatra reaches 49.28% of the total area. This makes the OIC the area with the largest peatland area in South Sumatra, and one of the largest in Indonesia. This makes South Sumatra one of the areas prone to fires Peatlands are flammable, and peatland fires can cause thick haze and are harmful to health. In 2023, South Sumatra will become one of the provinces with the largest fire area in Indonesia, reaching 32,496.5 hectares. Of the total burned area, Ogan Komering Ilir Regency (OIC) ranks first with a total burned land area of 20,558 hectares with details of peatland 9,092.5 hectares and non-peat land 11,465.8 hectares.

Based on Manggala Agni Data, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry shows that until September 29, 2023, South Sumatra ranks 4th in terms of area burned in Indonesia. To reduce and prevent the occurrence of forest and land fires, the government tries to deal with forest and land fires both in the form of regulations and programs and cooperates with various parties, but forest and land fires still occur. Several studies show problems in handling forest and land fires, including difficulties in coordination between related agencies, socialization, law enforcement, and the number of forest and land fire hotspots in the OIC is still relatively high.

This indicates that mitigations that have been carried out by the government and local communities must be evaluated considering that similar events continue to repeat and even tend to increase every year.

This study aims to describe the factors that cause forest and land fires in the OIC region, as well as evaluate control and prevention efforts that have been carried

out by the local government. The results of this study can be used as information to improve efforts and performance of better control and prevention to prevent forest and peatland fires in OIC District.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a qualitative research approach through library research and literature study. This design was chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of the policies and strategies implemented for controlling and preventing forest and land fires. The qualitative approach allowed for the exploration of various policy documents, reports, and scholarly literature pertaining to the research topic.

The primary data sources for this study were government policy documents, regulations, and official reports related to forest and land fire management. Additionally, relevant scholarly articles, books, and research publications from reputable sources were consulted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

The data collection techniques utilized in this study involved an extensive literature review and document analysis. The researcher conducted a systematic search and review of relevant policy documents, regulations, and reports from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions. Furthermore, a comprehensive search of academic databases was performed to identify and retrieve pertinent scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and conference proceedings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Forest and Land Fire Control and Prevention policies

Forest and land dedication or forest and land fire is a condition where the forest / land is burned, either intentionally or unintentionally done by nature or by human actions. Forest/land fires can have an impact on damage and loss in various sectors of life. Forest fires not only often occur due to dry weather but also often occur in areas with peat such as in the South Sumatra region in Ogan Komering Ilir district. Because it has a bad impact, this makes the government unable to remain silent about this forest fire, making the government issue various policies that are analyzed as a form of explanation that the government is trying to overcome this forest and land fire.

Forest and land fire control and prevention policy in Ogan Komering Ilir Regency is the government's effort to overcome and control forest and land fires that occur. This study found that efforts to control forest and land fires have not been fully successful, because many indicators and obstacles have occurred even though prevention efforts have been carried out. So the government is trying to implement policies and trying to find control efforts.

Purpose of Forest and Land Fire Control and Prevention

Presidential Instruction (Inpres) Number 3 of 2020 concerning Forest and Land Fire Management (Karhutla). This Presidential Instruction aims to strengthen prevention and law enforcement as an effort to combat forest and land fires throughout the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. This is a reference for

government organizations to suspend forest and land fires. Aside from the many prevention efforts that have been made.

Other purposes:

- Protecting public health: Fire and fire produce smoke that is harmful to health, such as ARI. Fire and Fire Control aims to protect the community from the negative effects of this haze.
- Conserving biodiversity: Fires can damage flora and fauna habitats, thus endangering biodiversity. Fire and Fire Control aims to conserve biodiversity.

How forest and land fire control and prevention works

According to government regulations

Based on the Regional Regulation of South Sumatra Province No.8 of 2016 concerning Forest and/or Land Fire Control, prevention of forest and land fires at the district/city level includes:

- a. Evaluation of forest fire-prone locations
- b. Counseling
- c. Making technical guidelines for the implementation of blackouts
- d. Procurement of fire disaster mitigation infrastructure
- e. Construction implementation
- f. Supervision

The strategies that can be used as a reference in efforts to prevent fires based on the Regional Regulation of South Sumatra Province No.8 of 2016 concerning Forest and / or Land Fire Control include:

The Information Systems approach, is one of the strategies used in forest and land control, conventionally this information system is carried out by direct monitoring in the field (fire-prone locations), the use of maps and compasses, data collection through the LAPAN fire HotSpot web and the use of maps as a tool to inform community members about the possibility of fire.

The Participation and Integration Approach, is a socio-economic approach through the role of local communities in mitigating forest and land fire disasters by means of mobilization, joint training and joint counseling between Fire Care Communities (MPA), the OIC District BPBD Task Force, and Manggala Agni.

Identification of Forest and land Management, determination of appropriate forest and land management actions (land preparation, planting, and maintenance) will be able to control the occurrence of fire events. In preparing land, for economic reasons and can increase soil fertility, most communities and forestry / plantation companies prepare land with burning techniques, where eventually this burning is out of control, spreads and fires occur.

According to the researcher

Alternative activities that can be done:

The alternative that the author proposes is formulated based on the theory of analysis of evaluation results, where the development of alternatives with analysis of

evaluation results is an effort to develop policies based on the evaluations of programs / policies that have been carried out.

Improved Coordination in Fire Control

Coordination is seen as a process starting with a perspective on objects, then communication occurs then joint decision making and coordination occurs. Coordination between government organizations can increase cooperation in forest and land fire control efforts.

In the implementation of the No Burning Land Clearing Policy in Ogan Ilir District, communication between implementors and policy implementing organizations is needed, so that good coordination can be established. The result is that socialization carried out by the Regional Disaster Management Agency of Ogan Ilir Regency and also the security forces is carried out regularly, especially in sub-districts that are prone to forest and land violence and coordination between BPBD and the National Police and the community has been going well to overcome the problem of forest and land fires, in addition to when forest and land fires occur the regional Disaster Management Agency is fast Counteract forest fires so that fires do not spread and cause smog.

Increasing community participation of stakeholders in forest and land fire control activities

Community participation in forest and land fire control starts from the planning stage of forest and land fire control, the fire prevention stage, the fire suppression stage and the post-fire handling stage. Participating in forest and land fire control activities means reducing the impact of fires on communities around the area.

This awareness must be increased through socialization and education to the community, this can be through mass media, village meetings, seminal, etc., providing training to the community, so as to motivate the community and make the community aware of forest and land fire control efforts. Community Participation in the Implementation of Forest and Land Fire Control Policy in Ogan Komering Ilir District may succeed in freeing Ogan Komering Ilir District from forest and land fires,

Sustainable peatland management

Sustainable peatland management in the OIC is an important effort to preserve the environment and improve community welfare. With commitment and cooperation from all parties, it is hoped that peatland management in the OIC can be carried out in a sustainable manner and provide benefits for present and future generations.

By establishing peatland management institutions, mapping and zoning peatlands, implementing environmentally friendly peatland management techniques, etc. It is hoped that the community can manage peat properly and

correctly.

In several areas, restoration programs have been carried out, one of which is in Bangsal Village, Pampangan District, OIC Regency. Restoration is carried out through economic revitalization with a development program of swamp buffalo maintenance. In addition, a restoration program was also carried out in Pedamaran District, Kemenangan Raya Village through wetting peatlands which they felt could prevent fires.

Factors Causing Forest and Land Fires

Land and forest fires (Karhutla) are a serious environmental problem in Indonesia, including in Ogan Komering Ilir District (OIC). There are two main factors that cause forest and land fires, namely natural factors and human factors.

Natural factors such as lightning, climate, high air temperature, and strong winds

Human Factors such as deliberate burning of land, Indiscriminate disposal of cigarette nipples, Illegal logging etc.

Other factors:

- Lack of public awareness: There are still many people who do not understand the dangers of forest and land fires and the importance of preventing fires.
- Limited supervision: Limited patrolling and supervision of officers makes the practice of burning land difficult to prevent.

Especially in OIC District:

Large peatland area: OIC District has a large expanse of peatland. Peatlands are more flammable than mineral soils because they have a high organic matter content and dry easily in the dry season.

Most of the fires that occur on peatlands in OIC Regency are triggered by anthropogenic factors that are deliberately carried out or negligence factors that are also supported by natural conditions. For example, the massive fires that occurred in 2019 were a combination of peatland degradation, socio-economic deterioration of the community and were also triggered by El Nino symptoms.

The factor that plays a major role in the emergence of hot spots as an indicator of forest and land fires is land clearing carried out by companies and communities by burning

Discussion

Forest and land fires are environmental problems that often recur every year. Fire and fire have a detrimental impact on many sectors. Because of that, policies emerged to control and prevent this but many of these policies did not work according to the rules in the policy itself because of many influencing factors.

Fire and fire in the OIC is a complex problem and requires a comprehensive solution. Efforts to control and prevent forest and land fires must be carried out in an integrated manner and involve all parties. So that these problems can be overcome and the policies that have been set can run properly and correctly.

Since the occurrence of forest and land fires from year to year, the Indonesian government has issued policies in order to deal with this problem. Some

of the regulations and policies are, Regional Regulation of South Sumatra Province No.8 of 2016 concerning Forest and/or Land Fire Control, Presidential Instruction (Inpres) Number 3 of 2020 concerning Forest and Land Fire Management (Karhutla). Forest and land fire control is among others carried out through prevention, extinguishment, and post-fire handling efforts carried out at the national level to the forest management unit level. Forest and land fire prevention efforts in the form of public awareness and warnings.

CONCLUSION

Forest and land fires often occur from year to year serious problems that require comprehensive and sustainable solutions. Various efforts such as policy setting have been made to prevent forest and land fires, but these events still occur frequently, thus showing that these policies have not been effective.

Evaluation of the policies implemented must be carried out by the government of Ogan Komering Ilir district both from the determination of policies, human resources, natural resources, the participation of other agencies, cooperation and coordination. With the evaluation carried out, it can overcome these problems.

There are several suggestions that can be done by the government so that policy implementation becomes more effective, including:

1. Strengthening supervision of law enforcement

Supervision needs to be carried out by the government, especially on the practice of burning land without permits or illegally by the community, especially in those that are not controlled.

2. Education and awareness raising campaigns and socialization

Good education is needed by the community to increase awareness in carrying out policies regarding forest and land fires.

3. Improve collaboration between institutions

Cooperation between government institutions, the private sector, and the community must be improved. This collaboration creates systematic steps in

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