
**Pengembangan Model Hutan Masyarakat Melalui Pendekatan Saling
Menunjang Antara Air untuk Pengadaan Listrik Mikro Hidro dan Hutan
Masyarakat untuk Konservasi Air di
Dusun Rotok – Desa Hilihintir – Kecamatan Satar Mese
Kabupaten Manggarai – Flores Barat NTT**

Staff : Robert Markus Zaka Lawang
Students : -
Sponsors : RUUI 2007
Email contact : r_lawang@yahoo.com

This is an action research which was designed to provide electricity for rural poor by the use of so called micro hydro electricity generator. On one hand this technology can solve the problem of electricity scarcity for remote area and on the other hand can emerge environmental awareness of the importance of forest conservation. This kind of awareness becomes basis for them to set up and to develop a social forestry, which in the long run will ensure water for electricity and irrigation as well. This is made possible only by the intervention of University of Indonesia to develop rural people.

There are some points taken from this research to be mentioned here. *Firstly*, a strategic intervention has been developed to meet the need of local community in forest conservation. It is strategic in character, because water – as part of nature – is used to conserve forest (nature) only by means of interventions of micro hydro electricity and community organization. In this respect, interventions are part of environmentalism. *Secondly*, there is a need or necessity for university to develop an interconnection system for electricity of low scale (4 times 600 watt), which up to this moment it is not available. Interconnection can reduce the inefficiency in cabling network. *Thirdly*, for a more discussion on relationship between human and environment in the environmental sociology, types of relationship between Manggarai people and their environment are as follow : (i) The most pure one is *ethnocentrism* where environmental awareness is completely absent. (ii) *Unintended egoistic eco-centrism* refers to relationship where Manggarai people grow trees for themselves without any environmental motivation at all, but the positive impact for the environment is clear. (iii) *Intended egoistic eco-centrism* refers to relationship where Manggarai people grow trees for themselves on the basis of environmental motivation. (iv) *Collective eco-centrism* refers to attitude and activities to grow trees collectively with the intended goal to conserve nature.

The rural poor are very glad having cheap electricity, no pollution, no fuel to generate power, pupils can study at night, people can charge hand phone battery, sometimes they can watch television. University of Indonesia is also of great happiness, because this research can contribute to the development of environmental sociology, where issues of awareness, mind, definition of situations, uncertainties and sometimes chaos, emergence are central in the paradigmatic discussion especially in the paradigm of social construction. Environmental ethnocentrism have been leaving Manggarai gradually and is being replaced by eco-centrism. This intervention precipitates the process. There are ninety eight households get electricity, a significant number to continue a collective effort for forest environmentalism in Manggarai.