

Law Enforcement of Forest Protection by Forest Police of Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit, Bone Regency

Andi Alif Rama Tadampali ¹, Hardianto Djanggih ², Andi Tenri Sapada ³.

¹ Faculty of Law, Muslim University of Indonesia

² Faculty of Law, Muslim University of Indonesia

³ Faculty of Law, Muslim University of Indonesia

Surel Koresponden: andialiframa180301@gmail.com

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji secara mendalam upaya-upaya penegakan hukum yang dilakukan oleh Polisi Kehutanan di Resort Tellu Limpoe UPTD KPH Cenrana Kabupaten Bone, serta menganalisis faktor-faktor yang memengaruhi efektivitas pelaksanaan tugas tersebut. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan empiris dengan menelaah realitas di lapangan melalui wawancara, observasi, dan studi data resmi. Lokasi penelitian dipilih karena tingginya tingkat perusakan hutan yang menunjukkan urgensi penguatan penegakan hukum kehutanan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Polisi Kehutanan menjalankan sejumlah upaya penting, antara lain patroli kawasan hutan, pemeriksaan dokumen peredaran hasil hutan, penerimaan laporan pelanggaran, pengumpulan informasi dan barang bukti, serta tindakan penangkapan sementara pada kasus tertangkap tangan. Upaya ini berkontribusi signifikan dalam mencegah dan menanggulangi tindak pidana kehutanan. Untuk mengatasi berbagai kendala yang ada, diperlukan peningkatan kapasitas sumber daya manusia, penyediaan sarana dan prasarana yang memadai, serta pengadaan Penyidik Pegawai Negeri Sipil (PPNS) khusus di bidang kehutanan guna memperkuat proses penyidikan tindak pidana kehutanan, khususnya *illegal logging*, sehingga perlindungan hutan dapat terlaksana secara optimal dan berkelanjutan.

Kata Kunci: Penegakan Hukum, Perlindungan Hutan, Polisi Kehutanan, *Illegal Logging*, KPH Cenrana.

Abstract: This study aims to examine in depth the law enforcement efforts carried out by the Forest Police in the Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit, Bone Regency, and to analyze the factors that influence the effectiveness of these efforts. The research method used was an empirical approach by examining the reality in the field through interviews, observations, and official data studies. The research location was chosen because of the high rate of forest destruction, which indicates the urgency of strengthening forestry law enforcement. The results of the study show that the Forest Police carry out a number of important efforts, including patrolling forest areas, checking documents related to the distribution of forest products, receiving reports of violations, collecting information and evidence, and making temporary arrests in cases of caught in the act. These efforts contribute significantly to preventing and combating forestry crimes. To overcome the various obstacles that exist, it is necessary to increase human resource capacity, provide adequate facilities and infrastructure, and procure special Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS) in the forestry sector to strengthen the investigation process of forestry crimes, especially *illegal logging*, so that forest protection can be carried out optimally and sustainably.

Keywords: Law Enforcement, Forest Protection, Forest Police, Illegal Logging, Cenrana Forest Management Unit.

A. PENDAHULUAN

Forests are a gift and a mandate from God Almighty given to humanity. Indonesia, as a country blessed with vast forest areas, possesses valuable natural resources that deserve to be protected and appreciated. Forest protection is a series of efforts to prevent and limit damage to forests, forest areas, and forest products that can arise from human activities, livestock, fires, pests, and diseases. These efforts also include actions to maintain and protect the rights of the state, communities, and individuals related to forests, forest areas, forest products, investments, and all elements related to forestry management. In implementing forest protection, the government should ideally pay attention to the diversity of local legal values that exist within the community as part of customary law, so that the implementation of forest protection can be achieved optimally.

All forms of efforts, activities and actions are carried out to prevent and reduce damage to forests and forest products that can arise due to human activities, livestock, fires, pest attacks and diseases, in addition, these steps also aim to maintain and protect the state's rights to forests and all forest products.[1] In addition to being based on the principle of sustainability, the utilization of forest resources must also consider the principle of multipurpose. This principle encompasses soil and water conservation, the provision of timber and non-timber resources for local communities, the preservation of flora and fauna diversity, and the role of forests in supporting various other development programs, such as transmigration, agriculture, and various public facilities. This is as explained in the Qur'an, Surah al-Hijr. [2]:

لَقَالُوا إِنَّمَا سُكِّرَتْ أَبْصَارُنَا بَلْ نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ مَّسْحُورُونَ ۝١٥

Translation : “And We spread out the earth and made mountains on it and made everything grow on it according to size. And We have created for you on earth the necessities of life. And (We also created) creatures”

This provision is in line with Article 33 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which emphasizes that forest management is under the authority of the state and its utilization must be directed towards the greatest prosperity of the people. This principle is clarified in Article 4 (paragraph) 1 of Law No. 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry, which states that the entire territory of the Republic of Indonesia and its natural resources are controlled by the State and used for the welfare of the people. This is important considering that forests are a major component of the life support system and a source of community welfare [3], Therefore, damage caused by illegal logging, encroachment, and forest fires must be prevented. Furthermore, provisions regarding the protection and eradication of forest destruction are also reinforced through Law Number 18 of 2013 concerning the Prevention and Eradication of

Forest Destruction, which comprehensively regulates the use of forests, forest products, and the management of forest areas by the Government to ensure their existence as permanent forests.[3]

One of the biggest threats to the existence of natural forests in Indonesia is the rampant illegal logging, conversion of forest areas into plantations, forest fires, and unsustainable forest utilization practices, whether for residential, industrial, or encroachment purposes. As happened in the South Sulawesi region, specifically in Bone Regency, South Sulawesi, namely in "Road clearing using heavy equipment "excavator" in Polewali Village, Tellu Limpoe District" which caused forest damage. Bone Regency is one of the autonomous regions in South Sulawesi province. This regency is located on the east coast of South Sulawesi and has a strategic position in the flow of trade in eastern Indonesia. Administratively, Bone is divided into 27 sub-districts, 328 villages, and 44 urban villages. The area is approximately 174 km east of Makassar City, at 4°13'-5°6' South Latitude and 119°42'-120°40' East Longitude. Land use in Bone Regency includes rice fields, fields, fish ponds, plantations, forests, and grasslands, with a forest area reaching 145,073 hectares. Its boundaries include Wajo and Soppeng Regencies to the north; Maros, Pangkep, and Barru to the west; Sinjai and Gowa to the south; and Bone Bay to the east. The vastness of the forest area makes Bone have significant forest resource potential, thus requiring optimal management and supervision by Forest Police at the Tellu Limpoe Resort, KPH Cenrana, Bone Regency.

Several previous studies have examined the role and forms of Forest Police supervision in protecting and securing forest areas, particularly by emphasizing the level of implementation of direct and indirect supervisory duties and measuring the role of Forest Police based on quantitative indicators. Research by Asikin et al. shows that Forest Police supervision in Sinjai Regency is categorized as very instrumental, both in the aspect of protecting forest areas and securing forest products and natural biological resources.[4] However, these studies have not yet thoroughly analyzed conflict management strategies at the local level and the effectiveness of law enforcement actions taken by the Forestry Police in responding to contextual and dynamic forestry violations in the field. Previous research has focused predominantly on measuring the role and form of supervision, resulting in inadequate attention to implementation aspects such as operational constraints, conflict management patterns with communities, and the effectiveness of law enforcement at the grassroots level.[5] Therefore, this study offers novelty by focusing the analysis on conflict management strategies and the effectiveness of Forestry Police law enforcement actions at the local level, particularly in the context of specific regional characteristics and forest use pressures.[6]

Although a number of studies have examined the role and forms of Forest Police oversight at various levels, including measurements of operational roles and forms of direct/indirect oversight, these findings tend to be descriptive and focus on implementation indicators, rather than on strategic mechanisms for conflict management and evaluating the effectiveness of enforcement actions at the ground level. For example, research in Sinjai demonstrated a high level of oversight but did not explore in depth how operational strategies, cross-agency coordination, and local interest dynamics influence enforcement outcomes.[7] While legal

instruments in the forestry sector are readily available, effective law enforcement still faces serious challenges, particularly in implementation on the ground. Limited authority of forestry officials and dependence on other law enforcement agencies often slow down the process of enforcing forestry violations.[8] In addition, other studies emphasize the limited authority and dependence of the Forestry Police on other officers, thus hampering the ability for rapid and contextual enforcement in the field.[9] Therefore, this study fills this gap by focusing the analysis on conflict management strategies and evaluating the effectiveness of Forestry Police law enforcement actions at the resort level, thereby producing a more operational and policy-relevant understanding for improving enforcement practices at the local level. [10]

Based on these research gaps, this study aims to analyze conflict management strategies and the effectiveness of law enforcement actions carried out by the Forestry Police at the local level in efforts to protect forest areas. This study specifically focuses on the practice of supervision and law enforcement by the Forestry Police at the resort level, by examining the forms of actions taken, operational constraints encountered, and the effectiveness of responses to forestry violations that occur in the field. Through this approach, the study is expected to provide academic contributions in the form of a more comprehensive understanding of the implementation of forestry law enforcement at the site level, while also serving as a practical reference for policy formulation and strengthening the role of the Forestry Police in sustainable forest management and protection.

B. METODE PENELITIAN

This study uses an empirical approach by collecting data directly from the field through observation, interviews, and the study of official documents related to forest protection law enforcement by the Forestry Police at the Tellu Limpoe Resort, KPH Cenrana, Bone Regency. The research location was selected based on the high level of forest destruction and the need to strengthen law enforcement in the area. The population in this study were relevant officials at the UPTD KPH Cenrana, Forestry Police officers, and the community surrounding the forest area. Sampling was conducted purposively with certain criteria to obtain relevant and in-depth data. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, direct field observations, and document studies covering case reports, related regulations, and statistical data from related institutions. The data obtained were then analyzed descriptively qualitatively to understand the factors influencing the effectiveness of law enforcement and the obstacles encountered in practice in the field. Data processing and analysis were carried out using deductive qualitative analysis methods, which aim to identify patterns, relationships, and causal factors of the observed phenomena. This approach allows researchers to obtain a comprehensive picture of the strategies, obstacles, and supporting factors in forest protection law enforcement in the area.[11]

C. HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

Forestry law enforcement is an integral part of the natural resource management system, which aims to preserve forests while ensuring legal certainty regarding their use. The effectiveness of forestry law enforcement is determined not only by the existence of governing legal norms, but also by the capacity of implementing institutions, coordination mechanisms between law enforcement officials, and social and structural conditions at the local level. Several studies have shown that the success of forestry law enforcement depends heavily on the ability of officials at the grassroots level to implement legal authority consistently and responsively to the dynamics of violations on the ground. Therefore, an analysis of law enforcement practices and the factors that influence them is crucial to understanding the extent to which forest protection can be effectively implemented at the local level.

1. Law Enforcement of Forest Protection by Forestry Police at Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit, Bone Regency

The purpose of forest protection is to maintain the sustainability and function of forests and to maintain the quality, value, and usefulness of forest products. To ensure effective forest protection, laws and regulations grant special police authority in the forestry sector to certain forestry officials, known as Forestry Police. This authority is intended to ensure that forestry officials have a strategic role in preventing and addressing forestry crimes as part of law enforcement efforts in the field of forest protection.[12]

Forestry law enforcement in the Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit (KPH Cenrana), can be seen in the handling of an illegal logging case that occurred in 2024, as recorded in Incident Report No. 07/LK/POLHUT-TL/II/2024. During a forest area security operation, the Forestry Police discovered a road clearing using heavy equipment, approximately 1,553 km long, within the Polewali Village Protected Forest, Tellu Limpoe District, Bone Regency. The case was subsequently prosecuted and resulted in a court ruling imposing a prison sentence and a fine on the perpetrator, indicating that forestry crimes in this area have entered the repressive law enforcement phase.

Based on Government Regulation No. 45 of 2004 concerning Forest Protection, the Forestry Police have the authority to conduct patrols, examine documents, receive reports, search for evidence, and make arrests in the act. However, in practice, this authority remains limited to the investigation stage, while full investigative authority rests with the Forestry Civil Servant Investigator (PPNS). This limitation of authority has limited the ability of regional Forestry Police to independently investigate illegal logging cases.

Research shows that of the eight Forestry Police personnel from the Cenrana Forest Management Unit (UPTD KPH Cenrana), not a single one holds the status of Forestry PPNS (National Civil Servant Officer). This absence of PPNS is due to the investigators' lack of competency as required by law. This situation requires that every forestry crime case be coordinated and delegated to the Law Enforcement Agency (Gakkum) of the Ministry of Forestry and the Indonesian National Police, thus restricting the law enforcement process entirely to the control of the Forestry Police at the local level.[5]

Thus, law enforcement regarding forest protection by the Forestry Police at the Tellu Limpoe Resort, KPH Cenrana, has been ongoing at the prevention and security stage, but has not been fully effective in terms of law enforcement. Limited investigative authority and dependence on other agencies are key factors affecting the effectiveness of forestry law enforcement at the local level, particularly in addressing complex and recurring illegal logging crimes.[4]

2. Factors Influencing Law Enforcement and Forest Protection by Forestry Police at Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit, Bone Regency

Forestry law enforcement by the Forestry Police at the Tellu Limpoe Resort, KPH Cenrana, is influenced not only by the legal framework and normative authority, but also by various structural and social factors that influence its effectiveness at the local level. Research findings indicate several dominant factors directly impacting the optimization of forest protection and the eradication of illegal logging in the working area of the UPTD KPH Cenrana.

One of the main factors impacting forestry law enforcement is limited human resources. The forest area managed by the UPTD KPH Cenrana covers 57,011 hectares, while the number of Forestry Police personnel on duty is only eight. This disparity between the size of the area monitored and the number of personnel makes it difficult to optimally monitor forest areas. This situation creates opportunities for illegal logging, particularly in areas that are difficult to reach and have direct access to community activities. Illegal logging in Indonesia is not simply an individual crime but part of a structural problem influenced by weaknesses in national law enforcement strategies, dependence on informal supply chains, and conflicts of interest between local actors and corporations. As a result, enforcement efforts at the ground level are often ineffective, especially when not supported by a strategic enforcement approach and cross-institutional coordination. Comparative studies show that without an integrated enforcement strategy and implementation priorities on the ground, efforts to reduce deforestation struggle to achieve sustainable results.[13]

In addition to internal factors, forestry law enforcement is also influenced by low community participation in forest protection. Communities living in and around forest areas largely depend on forest resources for their livelihoods, resulting in economic interests often conflicting with forest protection efforts. Low public understanding of the functions and benefits of forest areas, along with limited outreach activities by relevant agencies, also weaken the community's role in supporting the prevention and reporting of illegal logging.

Another factor impacting the effectiveness of forestry law enforcement is the limited availability of operational support facilities and infrastructure. The lack of transportation for evidence, storage facilities for confiscated goods, security posts within forest areas, and adequate security equipment are significant obstacles to the implementation of surveillance operations. These limited facilities impact the limited reach of surveillance and the slow handling of illegal logging cases discovered in the field.[14]

In addition to resources and facilities, the absence of Forestry Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS) within the Cenrana Forest Management Unit (UPTD) is also a significant inhibiting factor. This situation forces every forestry crime case handled by the Forestry Police to be delegated to the Ministry of Forestry's Law Enforcement Agency (Gakkum) and the Indonesian National Police. This dependency limits enforcement authority at the local level and has the potential to slow down forestry law enforcement.

Therefore, human resources, community participation, limited facilities and infrastructure, and the lack of investigative authority at the local level are key interrelated factors that influence the effectiveness of law enforcement and forest protection in the Tellu Limpoe Resort, Cenrana Forest Management Unit (KPH Cenrana). These factors demonstrate that forestry law enforcement issues are not only normative but also structural and social, requiring a comprehensive approach.[15]

Research findings indicate that the effectiveness of forestry law enforcement is influenced not only by the existence of legal norms, but also by the institutional capacity of officers in the field, including expertise, human resources, and facilities and infrastructure. This aligns with previous research findings that confirmed that limited organizational capacity and apparatus resources are one of the main obstacles to forestry law enforcement in various regions of Indonesia, resulting in legal theory often not being effectively implemented in practice [16]. With increased institutional capacity, it is hoped that the monitoring process and legal action against violations such as illegal logging can be carried out more responsively and consistently.

In addition to institutional factors, the results of this study also indicate that local community involvement is a critical variable in determining the effectiveness of law enforcement in forest areas. Low community participation in reporting forestry violations reduces the initial ability of law enforcement officers to detect and respond to illegal logging activities. This is supported by empirical studies showing that collaboration between law enforcement officials and local communities can increase compliance with environmental legal norms and strengthen community-based oversight mechanisms [17]. Therefore, strengthening participatory mechanisms and empowering local communities must be part of the national strategy to improve the effectiveness of forestry law enforcement at the grassroots level.

D. KESIMPULAN

The conclusion of this study indicates that law enforcement in forest protection at the Tellu Limpoe Resort, KPH Cenrana, still faces various challenges. Limited human resources, inadequate operational facilities, and dependence on other agencies are key factors affecting the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts. Furthermore, low community participation and the absence of PPNS (National Civil Servant Officers) at the local level also weaken the process of enforcement and prevention of forestry crimes. Therefore, increasing human resource capacity, strengthening operational facilities, and empowering communities need to be policy priorities to ensure more effective and sustainable forestry law enforcement. This

will ensure optimal protection and management of forest areas, maintain the sustainability of natural resources, and create a balance between economic interests and environmental sustainability.

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