

COURSE REPORT

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN MANGROVE AREAS

April 10-11, 2023

An online course organized by:

The Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI) and Yayasan Hutan Biru (Blue Forests Foundation)



An exercise in conflict management through participatory mapping of potential mangrove rehabilitation sites in Indragiri Hilir, Riau, Indonesia

Background: Indonesia has approximately 25% of the world's mangroves. In recent years, 40% of Indonesia's mangroves have been lost through coastal development, especially the conversion of mangrove areas into shrimp and fish ponds. Historically, mangroves have provided a large array of ecosystem services of value at both local and global scales. Mangroves' ability to sequester up to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests has become of particular interest in recent years due to the worsening climate crisis.

ELTI is an initiative of: **Yale SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT**



Community members discuss mangrove resource distribution in their village

The Indonesian government has set ambitious goals for conserving and restoring mangroves. However, interactions between local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders related to mangrove conservation and restoration often leads to conflict. Conflicts are sometimes caused by miscommunication, but more often they result from other problems, such as differences in values or beliefs. Conflict will always be present on a large or small scale; the best way to address these problems is making conflict a place to develop and grow, rather than perceiving the conflict merely as an obstacle when implementing project activities.

This online course focuses on providing participants with the knowledge and skills needed to either prevent conflicts or manage them productively when they do arise. The course was initiated by Blue Forests in collaboration with ELTI in response to many requests for guidance on resolving conflicts related to coastal areas from stakeholders, including mangrove project managers (NGOs), community groups, private sector actors, and representatives from local governments.

Training Objectives:

The overall goal of the training was to increase project managers' knowledge and understanding of the principles of conflict resolution through learning from case studies; to introduce the principle of FPIC (free, prior, and informed consent) as a way to minimize conflicts; and to introduce the principles of grievance mechanisms for use in determining models appropriate to the community's social conditions in program interventions.

Content:

This course was divided into three modules:

Module 1: Concepts and principles of conflict management

Module 2: Concepts and principles of FPIC (free, prior, informed consent)

Module 3: Concepts and principles of grievance mechanisms



Pelatihan Resolusi Konflik Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Alam Blue Forest – ELTI Program

Senin, 10 April – Selasa, 11 April 2023
Aris Bahariyono – Social Adviser

Mr. Aris Bahariyono discussing conflict management.

Course Format:

The course was delivered online over two days through lectures, group exercises, case study discussions, and group discussions. The course was facilitated by Ms. Lely Puspitasari, ELTI Indonesia program coordinator, and Mr. Sulton Afifudin, ELTI Indonesia program assistant, while Mr. Aris Bahariyono, thematic social specialist from Earthworm Foundation, was the lead instructor.

Day 1

Ms. Lely Puspitasari made introductions and provided a brief summary of the program, followed by a welcome message from Blue Forests' director, Mr. Rio Ahmad, on the importance of conflict management when implementing projects in coastal areas. Mr. Aris Bahariyono then presented the first module's training materials, on the concept and principles of conflict management. The instructor led a warmup discussion with participants about why land conflict in Indonesia seems to be a recurring and never-ending problem. He elaborated on three crucial aspects of Indonesia's land tenure system that often cause conflicts in forest areas:

- Legal: The forest status based on government regulation, for example, is often designated as production forest, while it is considered by the indigenous community to be a customary forest area.
- Economic: An example is the unequal distribution of benefits from forest extraction between the central government, regions, and local community.
- Cultural: For example, each indigenous community may have different cultural values of natural resources in its area.

Participants learned about the stages of conflict: the latent conflict, conflict escalation, crisis, de-escalation or negotiation, and dispute settlement or post-conflict peacebuilding. They also learned about alternative dispute resolution (ADR), which includes consultation, negotiation, and conciliation. Organizers then divided

participants into four groups and assigned a case study of conflict in coastal areas to each group. Groups met in virtual breakout rooms to discuss and analyze the case studies and provide recommendations for conflict management. A representative from each group presented the group's analysis to the forum, and a discussion by all participants followed.

Day 2

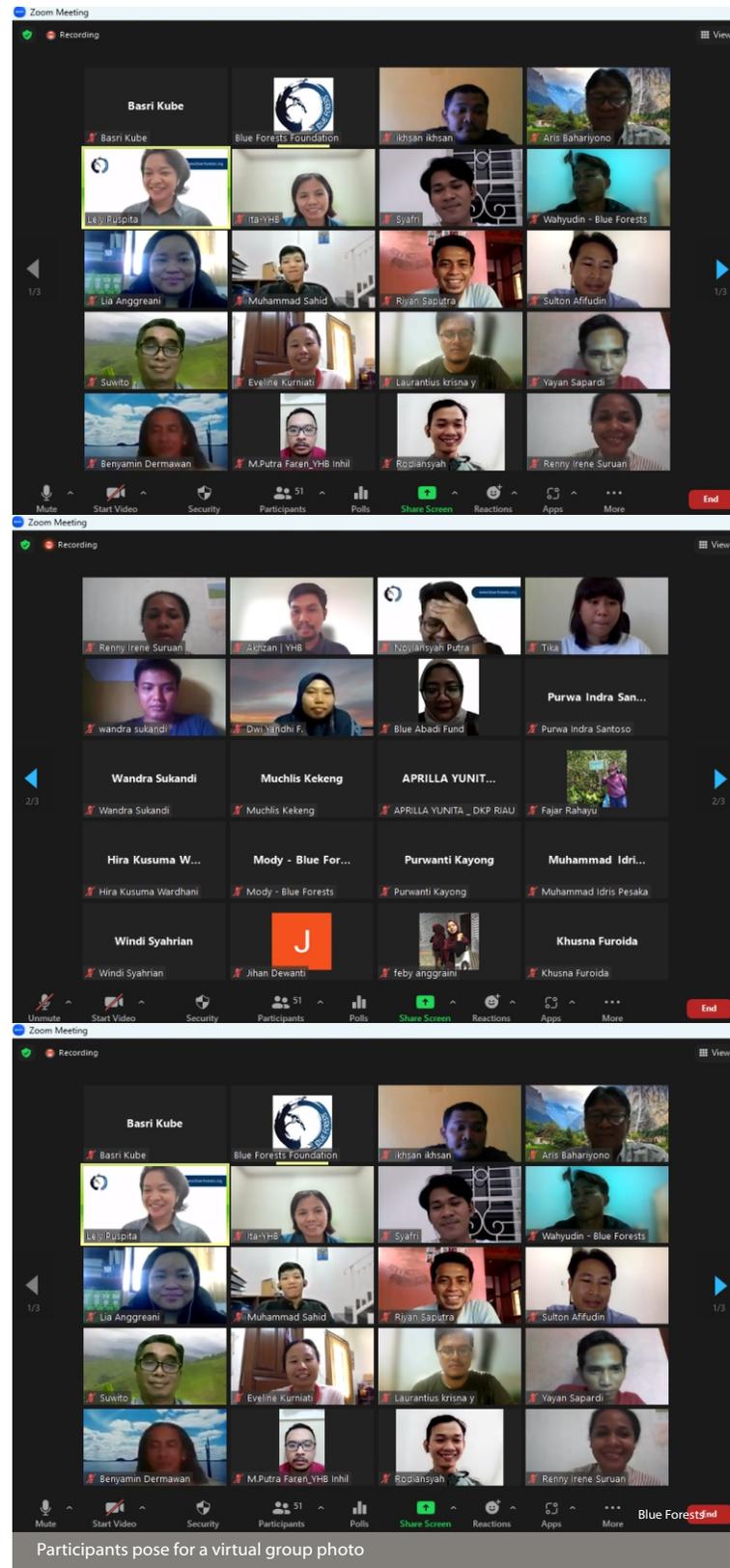
The first session of the day focused on FPIC, with a lecture followed by discussion. The instructor defined FPIC and explained its importance in conflict management. Case studies gave examples of how FPIC principles are often violated. The topic of how to implement FPIC generated questions and discussion related to participants' experience implementing FPIC in their project areas. The second and last session of the day focused on grievance mechanisms, including definition, principles, criteria, and indicators of grievance. The trainer shared grievance mechanism guides and procedures from several organizations and noted that standard operating procedures for handling grievances should be in place before conflicts arise.

Participants:

Fifty participants took the course: 44 from nonprofit organizations, three from private companies, two from government sectors, and one from a community group.

Follow-up:

Participants were enthusiastic about applying the lessons learned from the training. Course organizers created an email group so organizers, the instructor, and participants can stay in touch and share their experiences with conflict management. Participants suggested that ELTI and Blue Forests provide additional training on mangrove management and rehabilitation and coastal livelihoods, which is currently under consideration.



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