

The Livelihood Strategies of Residents Around Limboto Lake

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Abstract: People around Limboto Lake are generally dependent on the activity of agriculture and fisheries as a source of life. The lake's environmental changes caused the residents to lose their livelihoods and further decline their revenues. Ultimately, the residents should be able to manage their resources in order to come up with various livelihood strategies to meet the needs of the household. The purpose of this research is to analyze the livelihood strategies around Limboto Lake.

The study employs a survey research method which combines quantitative and qualitative approaches. The research takes place in the villages around Limboto Lake, namely, Kayu Bulan Village of Limboto Subdistrict, Lupoyo Village of Telaga Biru Subdistrict, Tabumela Village of Tilango Subdistrict, Iluta Village of Batudaa Subdistrict, and Limehe Timur Village of Tabongo Subdistrict. There is a total sample of 228 households obtained by systematic random sampling. Furthermore, the research engages qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data obtained. The descriptive quantitative approach is used to analyze the data from the questionnaires, and the qualitative data is involved in studying the data from in-depth interviews and observations, to clarify and strengthen the analysis of quantitative data.

The result shows that there are twelve strategies implemented by the residents nearby Limboto Lake. These livelihood strategies will be effective only if the residents can process and utilize their assets to sustain their life. Consequently, it is necessary for the inhabitants around Limboto Lake to use the resources of the lake by considering to the lake's ecological aspects.

Keywords - livelihood strategies

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I. INTRODUCTION

Limboto Lake is a natural resource located in Gorontalo province. Its presence plays a vital part in supporting the lives of the society as well as the organisms living in the lake. This leads to an aligned and balanced environment for the ecosystem native to Gorontalo province.

However, due to the siltation of the lake, the Limboto Lake loses its function to maintain the balance of the environment within the area. A number of recent studies report that the lake is in its critical status. Since 1934, sedimentation and the trend to open farming sites or to build houses decreased the area and the depth of the lake; from ± 7000 ha with 14 meters depth to ± 3000 ha with the depth of 2.5 - 4m (State Agency for Environment, Research, and Information Technology [1]).

The shrinkage of the lake area influences the storage of the water, particularly from the rain water and mountains nearby. When it is raining, floods cover the area close to the lake. On the other hand, the issue of clean water supply arises in the summer. Decreasing depth affects the population of the fish, lessen the income of the fishermen and thus ended up jobless especially when it reverts to the rainy season.

Damage to the lake ecosystem is the consequences of human exploitation over the Limboto Lake catchment area. This impacts on the life of the fishermen because they rely on the natural resource within the lake. Consequently, the fishermen will have a hard time to fulfill primary needs. In addition, a complex economic problem, such as the growing demand of the secondary needs makes the issue worse. According to [3], such an economic crisis is inevitable to the most of the people in rural areas. They are vulnerable to unexpected problems, from the environmental factors or the results of exploitation by humans, due to the lack of problem-solving skills. In order to [4] describing the vulnerability as a situation with no asset that leads a family being prone to problems and risks. A family with livelihood problems will be over-dependent, and also feel insecure.

The community nearby the Limboto lake riverbank, i.e. farmers, traditional fishermen or small-scale fisheries, and other citizen are prone to the issues of economic, social, and resources related to the poor lake environment. This circumstance forces the people to be able to manage their income as a part to find out livelihood strategies. People are obliged to employ approaches such as applying a set of activities to support

innovations in running their part-time works. This also allows them to start a breakthrough on their business as well.

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