

## Discourse Analysis Of Ecosystem Restoration, Green Economy, and Forest Conflict Issues In Jambi

Sarah Salamah<sup>1</sup>, Ali Maksum<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Master of International Relations, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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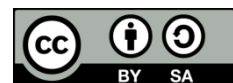
Harapan Forest

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### ABSTRACT

Harapan Forest in Jambi Province represents one of Indonesia's most prominent ecosystem restoration initiatives, yet its implementation has generated tensions between conservation objectives, green economy programs, and local livelihood interests. This study examines how ecosystem restoration, green economy initiatives, and forest conflicts are constructed and represented in public discourse surrounding the Harapan Forest. Using a qualitative approach, the research applies critical discourse analysis to 36 news articles published by Kompas.com and Tribun Jambi and analyzes the data using NVivo 12. The findings reveal three interconnected issues. First, a restoration dilemma emerges from competing priorities between biodiversity conservation and the economic dependence of local and indigenous communities on forest resources. Second, green economy initiatives, particularly social forestry and community partnership schemes, create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods but face challenges related to unequal access, land tenure disputes, and implementation constraints. Third, forest conflicts persist among local communities, indigenous groups, forest encroachers, PT Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia (PT REKI), and state authorities over land management rights, resource access, and conservation regulations. The analysis further demonstrates the significant role of transnational actors, including BirdLife International, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and international donors, in shaping restoration governance and conflict dynamics. This study contributes to the literature by providing a discourse-based analysis of ecosystem restoration that integrates environmental governance, green economy practices, and conflict dynamics, while highlighting the influence of transnational actors in Indonesia's social forestry and restoration policies.

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### Corresponding Author:

Sarah Salamah

Faculty of Postgraduate, Master of International Relations, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

Email: sarah.salamah.psc23@mail.umy.ac.id

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues are a matter of international concern because they affect the survival of humanity and future generations [1] According to Regulation of the Minister of Forestry Number P.48/Menhut-II/2014, ecosystem restoration is the act of restoring ecosystems that have suffered damage in the form of reduced land cover, damage to water bodies or marine landscapes, and disruption to wildlife, aquatic biota, or marine biota through planting, water body rehabilitation or marine landscape rehabilitation, habitat and population development for the purpose of achieving a balance of natural resources and ecosystems that is close to their original condition [2].

According to Kahle and Gurel Atay, the Green Economy is a mechanism that primarily results in the improvement and development of human welfare and reduces environmental risks [3]. The Green Economy is a sustainable effort in the national economy to address crises and restore the economy, as it creates jobs that are suitable for everyone[4]. The Green Economy aims to improve the climate by reducing pollution, and plays an important role in creating jobs and investment [5].

Harapan Forest is an ecosystem restoration area located in Bungku village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province. This 98,555-hectare forest is the natural habitat of endemic and rare flora and fauna, and is also the customary land of the Bathin Sembilan tribe. The Hutan Harapan area is an ecosystem for 293 species of birds, including 22 endemic and protected species, 55 species of mammals, including 20 endemic and protected species, 26 species of amphibians, 38 species of reptiles, including 2 endemic and protected species, and 159 species of trees, one of which is Kayu Bulian (*Eusideroxylon Zwageri*), a rare tree species native to Jambi. Hutan Harapan is also the natural habitat of the most famous protected animal in Sumatra, the Sumatran tiger [6]. Hutan Harapan was originally a productive industrial forest that was converted into an ecosystem restoration forest under the provisions of the Minister of Forestry Decree No. 83/Menhut-II/2005. The forest coexists with oil palm plantations and industrial forest plantations (Hutan Tanaman Industri). Hutan Harapan is also a social forestry area under Ministerial Regulation No. 83/2016 on social forestry [8].

International attention to this forest ecosystem has led many parties to invest in its restoration, including King Charles and the Danish government. In 2008, King Charles III, then crown prince, founded PT REKI (Indonesian ecosystem restoration), a collaboration between BirdLife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. King Charles III provided investment to restore the Hutan Harapan forest, which was threatened by forest fires, illegal logging, and agricultural land clearing [7]. Prince Charles also made a direct visit to Jambi to observe the 101,000-hectare forest restoration area. In 2016, Danish Ambassador Casper Klyngge met with the then-Governor of Jambi, Zumi Zola, to offer a US\$1 million investment from the Danish government to restore the Hutan Harapan forest. The Danish government said it wanted to invest in restoring the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province because the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi accounts for 20% of the remaining lowland tropical rainforests in Sumatra. The forest is also home to endemic and rare species of flora and fauna[8]. However, at the end of 2018, the Danish government

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withdrew its investment in restoring the Hutan Harapan ecosystem, citing the need to redirect its funds to poor countries in Africa. This withdrawal of investment has become a serious problem in forest restoration management. According to Rasmussen, the National Programme Advisor for the Danida Environmental Support Programme has requested that management secure the forest to reduce the rate of encroachment to 0% within 1 year, as of 2016. However, the management of the Forest of Hope cannot comply with this because the extent of encroachment is increasingly massive and requires significant government support, from prevention to law enforcement. The lack of state assistance for forest rescue operations and strict law enforcement has also hampered the rescue of forest land [8].

Perspectives from political ecology and environmental governance further inform the study. Political ecology highlights how environmental conflicts are closely connected to questions of power, access to resources, and competing interests among actors operating at different scales. Meanwhile, environmental governance provides a framework for understanding how governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and international actors interact in managing environmental resources. These perspectives are particularly relevant to the Harapan Forest restoration project, which involves multiple stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous groups, government agencies, conservation organizations, and international actors.

The involvement of transnational actors makes Harapan Forest an especially important case within the broader literature on global environmental governance. Organizations such as BirdLife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, together with international donors and foreign governmental actors, have contributed financial resources, technical expertise, and political support for restoration efforts. Their participation illustrates how environmental governance increasingly operates beyond national boundaries, creating complex interactions between global conservation agendas and local socio-economic realities. Examining how these actors are represented in media discourse provides insights into the ways global environmental governance is negotiated, contested, and legitimized within local contexts.

Based on these considerations, this study aims to analyze how ecosystem restoration, green economy initiatives, and forest conflicts in Harapan Forest are represented in Indonesian media discourse. By examining news coverage from Kompas.com and Tribun Jambi using discourse analysis and NVivo-assisted content analysis, the study seeks to identify dominant narratives, competing discourses, and the role of transnational actors in shaping environmental governance debates. In doing so, the research contributes to the literature on environmental governance, political ecology, and critical environmental studies by demonstrating how environmental conflicts are constructed and negotiated through public discourse.

## **2. METHOD**

The research is qualitative, with content analysis using NVivo software. Content analysis is a discourse analysis of forest restoration, the green economy, and the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province. Discourse is a sequence of related sentences that form a coherent meaning. Syamsuddin defines discourse as a sequence of utterances or speech acts

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that express a subject presented in an organized and systematic manner in a coherent whole, and is formed by segmental and nonsegmental elements of language. Meanwhile, critical discourse analysis is a theory used to study the relationship between discourse and socio-cultural development empirically. This discourse provides insight and generates knowledge in a particular context, while also producing interpretations that take into account the effects of critical discourse without generalizing to other contexts. Therefore, the author focuses on two major media outlets in Jambi and nationwide that cover news on restoration, the green economy, and forest conflicts in Jambi, namely Kompas.com and Tribun Jambi. The coding used in this study is actor, deforestation, green economy, forest conflict, media, forest restoration, and year. Actors include the Governor of Jambi, communities living near the forest, Prince Charles, poachers, forest rangers, illegal loggers, PT REKI, and the Anak Dalam tribe. Deforestation includes illegal logging, road construction, unauthorized encroachment, and poaching. The green economy includes ecotourism, forest management rights, and the utilization of forest products. Forest conflicts consist of conflicts involving harapan forest, indigenous communities, forest communities, forest rangers, forest rangers and encroachers, and encroachers. Media include Kompas and Tribun Jambi. Forest restoration includes wildlife reintroduction, prevention of encroachment, forest protection, and reforestation. The time period spans 2008–2023; however, there is a gap in the data for 2020. The findings are presented in the following table:

Table 1. Data of Research

Media	Website	Total News
Kompas	Kompas.com	30
Tribun Jambi	Jambi.Tribunnews.com	6

Source: sorted by using Nvivo

The final result of the data collection process was initially a total of (n=100), but after sorting, only (n=36) remained. Sorting was carried out because several news data sets were incomplete, failed to download, and had damaged files. After the news was collected, the author analyzed NVivo and coded it by time/year, media, actors, and sentiment. The research process can be illustrated as follows:

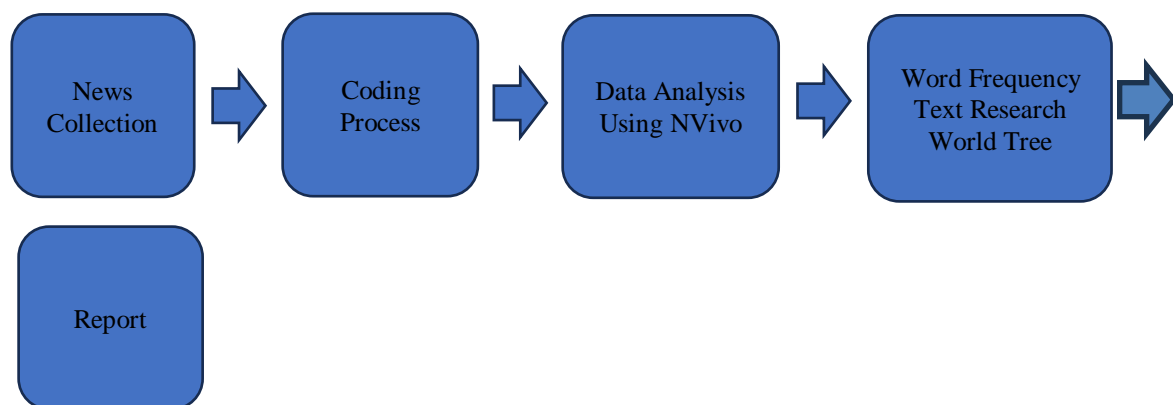


Figure 1. Process of Research  
Source: author's research process

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Results

Slembrouk defines discourse analysis as the analysis of spoken and written language use involving the sender and receiver of messages in communicative acts [9]. Discourse analysis aims to identify patterns or structures expressed in a text. The purpose of this study is to analyze forest restoration, the green economy, and forest conflicts in the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province using Nvivo data analysis and to analyze forest restoration, the green economy, and forest conflicts in the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province using discourse analysis. The following are maps of Jambi Province and the Hutan Harapan forest:

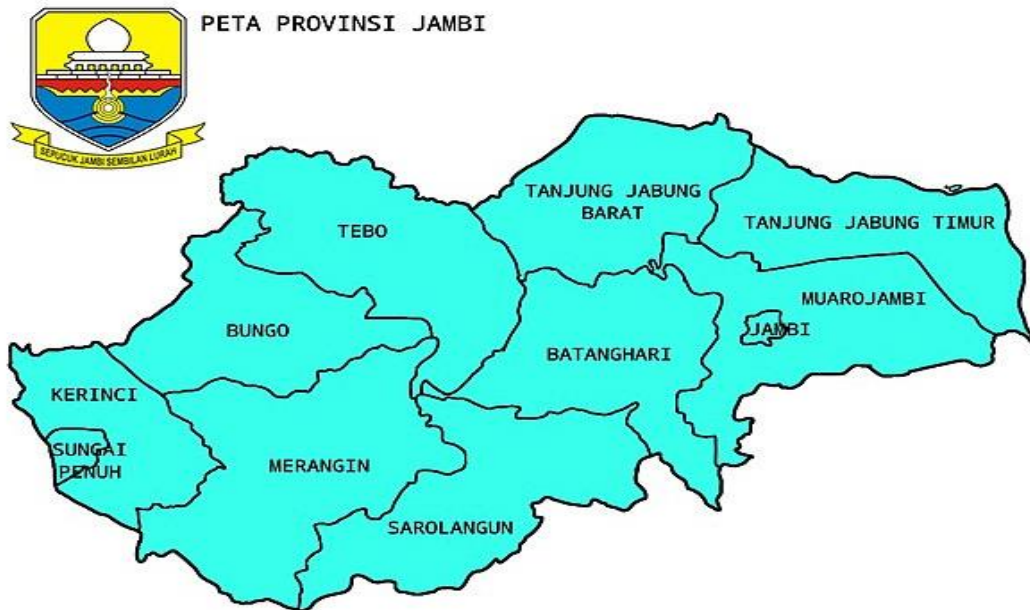


Figure 2. Jambi Province Map  
Source: id.wikipedia.org website

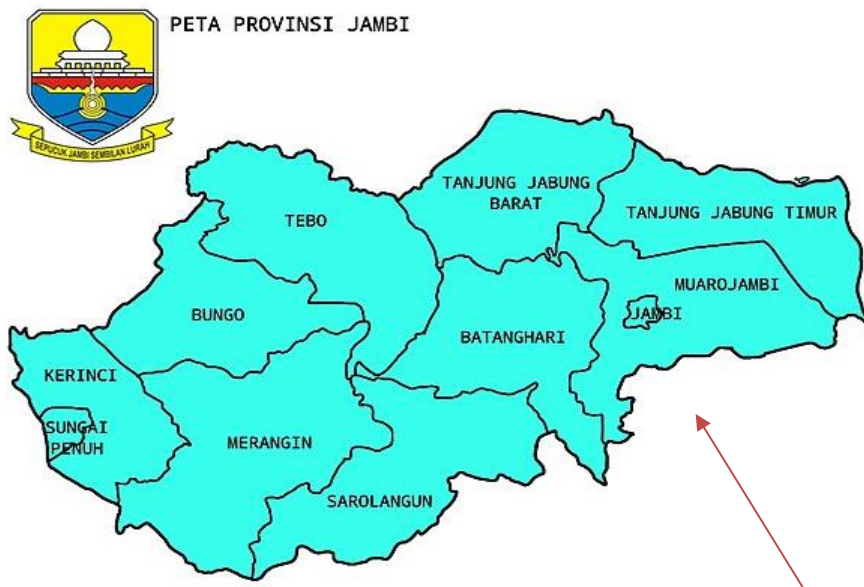


Figure 3. Map of Hutan Harapan Location in Jambi Province  
Source: Edited using Microsoft Word

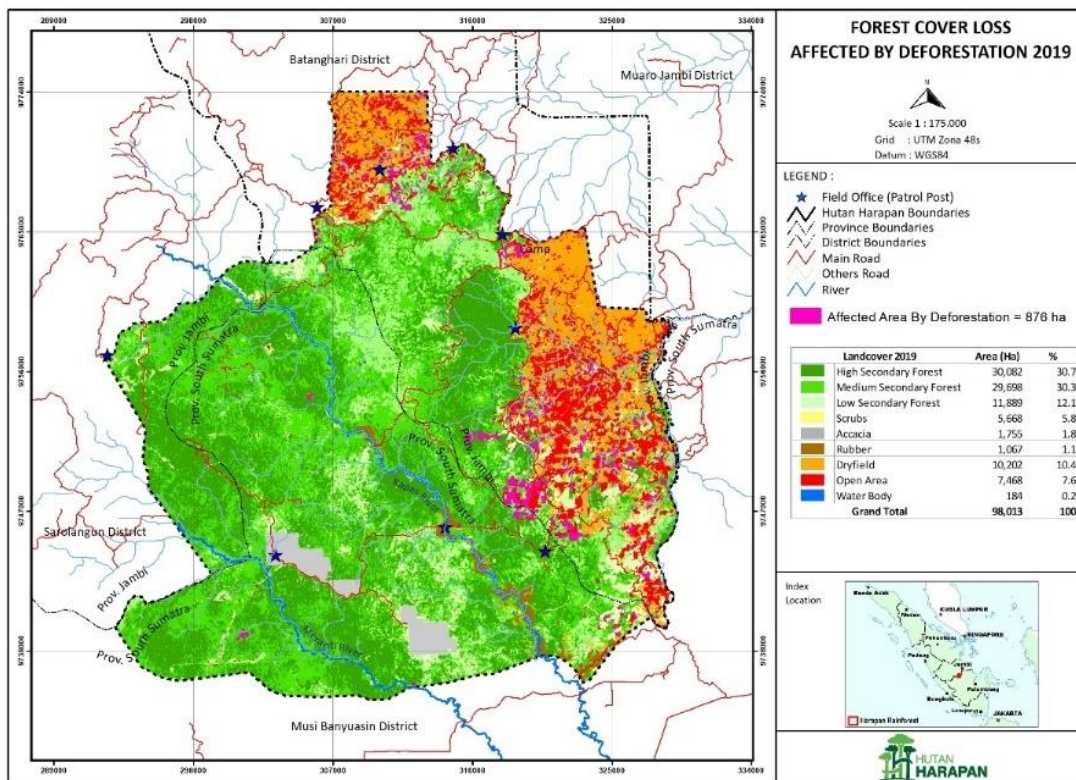


Figure 4. Map of Hutan Harapan

Source: hutanharapan.id website

### a. Nvivo Analysis of the Hutan Harapan Forest in Jambi Province

This study uses NVivo 12 to analyze news discourse because of its ability to identify keywords and generate Word Clouds, Word Trees, and Word Maps from text search queries and word frequency analysis. This feature makes it easier to transcribe news more directly. Figure 4 shows the words that appear most frequently in searches for “Hutan Harapan Jambi” on the Kompas and Tribun Jambi media websites. The data shows that the five most frequently appearing words are: ‘forest’ (2823 times), ‘Jambi’ (2508 times), ‘hope’ (2123 times), ‘Kompas’ (739 times), and ‘REKI’ (402 times). In addition, the word “restoration” appeared 377 times, “Batanghari” appeared 326 times, “area” appeared 292 times, “residents” appeared 257 times, ‘environment’ appeared 252 times, and “tribun” appeared 248 times.



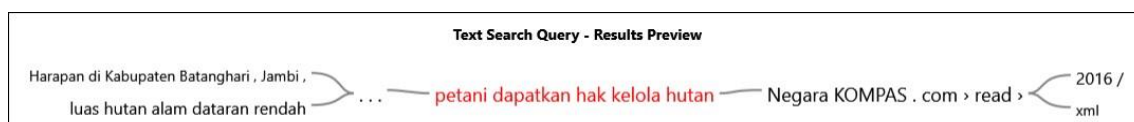


Figure 7. Results Data of Visualization Word Tree Search for 'Farmers Obtain Forest Management Rights'

Source: Results of the Author's Analysis Using NVivo Software

Figure 7 discusses the results of data visualization of the word tree for the keyword “farmers obtain forest management rights.” The Kompas.com news article describes Hutan Harapan as the last remaining lowland forest in Sumatra. Located in Jambi Regency, this forest has been the site of a prolonged tenure conflict between the forest community and PT REKI. The conflict lasted for twenty years and ultimately resulted in farmers and the forest community being granted legal rights to manage Hutan Harapan.

## b. Discourse Analysis of the Hope Forest in Jambi Province

Media are tools or means of communication, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, films, television, banners, and posters [10]. Although mass media is a means of communication, it is also a political tool used by the government to convey information and messages to the public effectively and efficiently [11]. The following is the media analysis conducted by the author by examining the discourse in two media outlets, namely the online media Kompas and the online media Tribun Jambi:

### 1. [www.kompas.com](http://www.kompas.com) Online Media

Kompas is one of Indonesia's most well-known news outlets. When it was first established, Kompas was the only print media outlet that reported on politics and law. However, over time, information and entertainment sections were also included in the print media. When reporting information, [www.kompas.com](http://www.kompas.com) always focuses on unexpected developments. Kompas invites its readers to assess individuals involved in a case directly. Kompas is impartial and does not take sides. This is evident in its careful use of vocabulary and in its consideration of literature [12].

### 2. [TribunJambi.com](http://TribunJambi.com) Online Media

Tribun Jambi is a daily newspaper published in Jambi and part of the Kompas Media group. Tribun Jambi features the latest news and videos related to events, entertainment, travel, and local information in Jambi and its surrounding areas [13]. This local information covers events in Jambi and its surrounding areas, presented with local wisdom and greater depth than national media covering the same topics.

### 3. Statement Regarding the Restoration of the Hutan Harapan Forest at [www.kompas.com](http://www.kompas.com)

**Statement 1** “Menhut MS Kaban menyampaikan kepada Pangeran Charles, bahwa kawasan Hutan Restorasi yang berada di Provinsi Jambi dan Sumatera Selatan seluas 101.000 hektar akan dijadikan model pengelolaan restorasi pertama di Indonesia. Sampai saat ini sudah ada 10 perusahaan di Indonesia yang mengajukan izin untuk mengelola kawasan Hutan Restorasi” [14].

*“Minister of Forestry MS Kaban told Prince Charles that the 101,000-hectare Restoration Forest area in Jambi and South Sumatra provinces will be used as the first restoration management model in Indonesia. To date, 10 companies in Indonesia have applied for permits to manage the Restoration Forest area.”*

From the above statement, it can be seen that King Charles initiated the restoration of the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province in 2008, when he was a prince. This statement also implies that forest management is easily accessible to elites, such as companies and foreign governments, who exploit forests for their own interests. This is evident from the amount of restoration forest funded by King Charles, which reaches 101,000 hectares, and the number of companies that have applied for restoration forest management permits, namely ten companies.

**Statement 2** *“Sebanyak 60 trenggiling hasil tangkapan polisi perairan Polda Jambi di Tanjung Jabung Barat pada pekan lalu dilepasliarkan kembali di hutan restorasi Harapan Kabupaten Batanghari Provinsi Jambi.”*[15] .

*“A total of 60 pangolins captured by the Jambi Regional Police's water police in West Tanjung Jabung last week were released back into the Harapan restoration forest in Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province.”*

Statement 2 above discusses the release of pangolins into the Hutan Harapan Jambi forest area. The release of animals into their natural habitat was carried out by the Jambi Regional Police and the Jambi Provincial Natural Resources Conservation Agency (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam) after the West Tanjung Jabung Regional Police's water police successfully stopped the smuggling of pangolins. Pangolins are rare, endemic animals protected by law and must be preserved and returned to their natural ecosystems.

#### **4. Statement Regarding Forest Restoration on TribunJambi.com**

**Statement 1** *“PT REKI sudah mendapatkan izin disana untuk melakukan restorasi di kawasan itu. Namun perambah masih juga datang dan melakukan pembukaan lahan. Sudah berkali-kali sosialisasi kepada warga yang menduduki dan menguasai hutan itu. Tapi masih aja mereka berdiam disana. “ unkap Israwandi”* [16].

*“PT REKI has obtained permission to restore the area. However, encroachers continue to arrive and clear the land. There have been numerous attempts to raise awareness among the residents who occupy and control the forest. However, they remain there.”*

From the above statement, it can be seen that the forest restoration carried out by PT REKI has received government permission. This restoration is being carried out in the Harpan Forest area, which spans the provinces of Jambi and South Sumatra. From the sentence “However, encroachers still come and clear the land,” we can see that the government itself is more supportive of PT REKI, the owner of the forest restoration, and has made efforts to raise awareness among the local community, yet forest destruction continues.

**Statement 2** *“Antara Denmark dan PT REKI mencari solusi tekanan dari luar. Tapi, kami meyakini pihak Reki bisa mencari solusi dengan cara bermitra dengan*

*masyarakat sekitar,“ sambung dubes Denmark untuk Indonesia Casper Klynge.“ [17].*

*“Denmark and PT REKI are seeking solutions to external pressures. However, we believe that Reki can find a solution by partnering with the local community,” continued Casper Klynge, Danish Ambassador to Indonesia.”*

Statement 2 shows that the issue of preserving the Hutan Harapan forest has become a global concern. This forest is considered capable of reducing carbon emissions that cause climate change. The Danish government has provided 120 billion in restoration funds for Hutan Harapan from 2012 to 2015, and the Danish Embassy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hutan Harapan until 2018, totaling 40 billion. The cooperation program between PT REKI and the Danish government is not only aimed at preserving the sustainability of the Hutan Harapan forest but also prioritizes the welfare of the Suku Anak Dalam (SAD) tribe, whose presence in the Hutan Harapan area is maintained.

##### 5. Statement of Green Economy on [www.kompas.com](http://www.kompas.com)

**Statement 1** *“Pola Warsi dalam pemberdayaan masyarakat yang berpengalaman hingga kini membina Orang Rimba atau Suku Kubu di Taman Nasional Bukit Dua Belas (TNBD) Kabupaten Sarolangun dan Batanghari, dengan melakukan jeda pemanfaatan kayu, rehabilitasi konservasi, partisipasi para pihak, dan pembangunan sosial ekonomi masyarakat” [18].*

*“Warsi's pattern of community empowerment has to date involved working with the Orang Rimba or Kubu tribe in the Bukit Dua Belas National Park (TNBD) in Sarolangun and Batanghari districts, by implementing a moratorium on timber exploitation, conservation rehabilitation, stakeholder participation, and socio-economic development of the community.”*

The above statement shows the green economy efforts undertaken by the Indonesian Conservation Community (Komunitas Konsevasi Indonesia) Warsi in empower the Kubu indigenous community in managing the Hutan Harapan Forest in Jambi Province for economic and social purposes. However, the utilization of forest products still takes into account the environmental impact by implementing a pause in timber utilization, conservation, and support from other parties in the form of participation from other parties.

**Statement 2.** *“Presiden Direkut PT REKI Effendy Sumardja menyebutkan, pihaknya mengadakan skema kemitraan dengan kelompok tani tersebut. “Banyak manfaat untuk masyarakat diantaranya peluang mengoptimalkan ruang kelola dan memperoleh manfaat dari pengelolaan hutan secara lestari“, katanya“ [19].*

*“PT REKI President Director Effendy Sumardja said that his company had established a partnership scheme with the farmer group. “There are many benefits for the community, including opportunities to optimize management space and reap the benefits of sustainable forest management,” he said.*

The above statement discusses the state forest management rights granted to the Forest Farmers Group (Komunitas Tani Hutan), comprising the Bungin Mandiri Forest Farmers Group, the Trimakno Leadership Group, and the Bathin Sembilan tribe. This

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partnership scheme gives the community the right to participate in forest planning, training in forestry, and living plants by providing oil palm plants for a certain period of time, interspersed with other forest plants in accordance with agroforestry principles, and other assistance that also improves the welfare of the community while maintaining forest sustainability.

The above statement also indicates that the legality of state forest governance for farmers is a form of conflict resolution. Conflict resolution can be achieved by establishing peace, identifying the root causes of conflict, demonstrating good intentions, exploring all possibilities for peace, and seizing opportunities for peace by implementing effective mechanisms [20]

## **6. Statement of Green Economy on TribunJambi.com**

**Statement 1** *“Ini merupakan kesepakatan ketiga yang dibangun manajemen Hutan Harapan setelah sebelumnya dengan empat kelompok masyarakat Batin Sembilan dan Kelompok Trimakno yang juga di Kuningan Jaya 1. “Kesepakatan kemitraan ini merujuk kepada peraturan Menteri Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan No. P.83/MenLHK/Setjen/Kum.1/10/2016 tentang perhutanan sosial,” lanjutnya” [21]*  
*“This is the third agreement established by Hutan Harapan management, following previous agreements with four community groups, Batin Sembilan and Trimakno, also in Kuningan Jaya 1. “This partnership agreement refers to the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.83/MenLHK/Setjen/Kum.1/10/2016 concerning social forestry,” he continued.’*

From this statement, it can be seen that the green economy in the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province also involves village communities and indigenous peoples. Conflict resolution is carried out through a social forestry partnership scheme that engages village communities and indigenous peoples to work together to preserve the forest. Indigenous peoples living in forest areas are guided by utilizing forest products in accordance with environmental sustainability protocols, while maintaining a positive impact on the economy and society.

**Statement 2** *“Kepala Balai Perhutanan Sosial dan Konflik Lahan Wilayah Sumatera Sahala Simanjuntak menyebutkan melalui percepatan perhutanan sosial, pengembangan potensi hasil hutan bukan kayu dapat diharapkan turut meningkatkan taraf hidup masyarakat”[22].*

*“The Head of the Social Forestry and Land Conflict Agency for the Sumatra Region, Sahala Simanjuntak, stated that through the acceleration of social forestry, the development of non-timber forest product potential can be expected to contribute to improving the standard of living of the community”.*

Statement 2 discusses how social forestry programs grant forest management rights to communities surrounding the Harapan Forest and the Bathin Sembilan tribe. According to Law No. 41 of 1999, Article 3, Letter D, forestry management aims to achieve prosperity for the people fairly and sustainably. In this case, the product in question is forest honey, which is a non-timber forest product (Komoditas Hasil Hutan Bukan Kayu) that falls under the forest community's management rights. Forest honey

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is considered a high-value and high-potential product and was traded at the 2018 Jambi Enchantment Festival.

### 7. Statement Regarding Conflict in Hutan Harapan Jambi Province on [www.kompas.com](http://www.kompas.com)

**Statement 1** *"Kebijakan pemerintah dalam pemanfaatan hutan berdampak mereduksi ruang kelola masyarakat. Itu sebabnya muncul konflik antara masyarakat dan perusahaan di sejumlah daerah," ujar Koordinator Program Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia Warsi Diki Kurniawan*" [23].

**Statement 2** *"Di tengah banyaknya konflik wilayah hutan, Minggu lalu, sekitar 200 perambah yang tergabung dalam Serikat Petani Indonesia (SPI) menyandera dua anggota Tim Patroli Hutan Harapan di Kabupaten Batanghari, Jambi. Aksi itu diduga terkait aktivitas tim mengamankan ribuan kayu curian yang tertahan dalam Sungai Jerat di kawasan hutan tersebut"* [23].

*"Government policies on forest utilization have reduced the amount of land available for community management. That is why conflicts between communities and companies have arisen in a number of areas," said Warsi Diki Kurniawan, Program Coordinator for the Indonesian Conservation Community.*

*"Amidst numerous forest conflicts, last Sunday, around 200 loggers who are members of the Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI) held two members of the Harapan Forest Patrol Team hostage in Batanghari Regency, Jambi. The action is suspected to be related to the team's activities in securing thousands of stolen logs that were stuck in the Jerat River in the forest area"*

From statements 1 and 2 in the news report, it can be seen that the conflict in the Hutan Harapan forest in Batanghari Regency involves small communities who are members of the Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI) as well as encroachers who steal timber from the Jerat River in Hutan Harapan, with representatives of the global elite community, namely the PT. REKI forest patrol team under the authority of Birdlife International. Although in this case the community is committing a crime, we can see that policies do not always favor small communities, forcing them to commit crimes in order to meet their daily needs.

**Statement 3** *"Setelah 20 tahun mengelola kawasan hutan negara tanpa legalitas, 595 keluarga petani di areal konsesi restorasi Hutan Harapan, Kabupaten Batanghari Jambi, akhirnya memperoleh hak kelola resmi"*[19].

*"After 20 years of managing state forest areas without legal status, 595 farming families in the Hutan Harapan restoration concession area, Batanghari Regency, Jambi, have finally obtained official management rights"*

The above statement describes the forest conflict that occurred in the Hutan Harapan area between PT REKI and the Forest Farmers Group (Kelompok Tani Hutan). This conflict, which involved communities surrounding the forest, arose over forest management rights, particularly the planting of oil palm trees by the Forest Farmers Group (Kelompok Tani Hutan) in the Hutan Harapan restoration area. This conflict ended within 20 years after the Bungin Mandiri Forest Farmers Group, the Trimaknoleled group, and the Bathin Sembilan Group signed a memorandum of understanding

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with PT. REKI. This shows that forest or tenure conflicts are long-lasting and require mediation and understanding between the parties involved.

#### **8. Statement Regarding Conflict in Hutan Harapan Jambi on TribunJambi.com**

**Statement 1** *“PT Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia (REKI) membutuhkan bantuan dan dukungan segera untuk penegakan hukum terhadap para pelaku perusakan kawasan Hutan Harapan di Kunangan Jaya II, Desa Bungku, Kecamatan Bajubang, Kabupaten Batanghari”* [24]

*“PT Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia (REKI) requires immediate assistance and support for law enforcement against perpetrators of destruction in the Hutan Harapan forest area in Kunangan Jaya II, Bungku Village, Bajubang Subdistrict, Batanghari Regency.”*

The above statement indicates a conflict between PT REKI and the residents of Kunangan Jaya II village. This conflict arose between PT REKI, as the stakeholder responsible for restoring the Hutan Harapan forest area, and the residents of Kunangan Jaya II village, who depend on the forest for their livelihood. However, the residents of Kunangan Jaya II Village have been utilizing the forest in a manner that does not comply with forest utilization protocols, prompting PT REKI to request law enforcement in this case.

**Statement 2** *“Lebih dari 40 petugas PT Restorasi Indonesia (REKI) bersama sembilan personel Polres Batanghari dan lima personel Polda Jambi disandera ratusan perambah di kawasan konsesi PT REKI”* [25].

*“More than 40 employees of PT Restorasi Indonesia (REKI), along with nine personnel from the Batanghari Police and five personnel from the Jambi Provincial Police, were held hostage by hundreds of encroachers in the PT REKI concession area”* [25].

Statement 2 above shows that the conflict between the community and PT REKI has reached an extreme level. Communities that have not obtained legal rights to manage the forest have been labeled as encroachers. Communities living near the forest have been utilizing an area of 240 hectares in the Hutan Harapan forest by planting oil palm seedlings, but this has been discovered by PT REKI forest rangers, who have removed all the oil palm seedlings in accordance with agroforestry protocols. However, hundreds of community members who did not accept this intimidated the forest rangers. The forest rangers requested assistance from the Jambi Provincial Police and the Batanghari District Police, but in the end, all forest rangers and police officers were taken hostage by residents due to the order prohibiting the use of firearms against encroachers.

#### **9. News on Kompas and Tribun Jambi Medias**

In the case of forest restoration, the green economy, and forest conflicts, the keywords Hutan Harapan (Forest of Hope) in Jambi Province, Kompas and Tribun Jambi media outlets reported the news with their own characteristics. The reviews on forest restoration, green economy, and forest conflicts in Jambi Province are as follows:

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### 1) News on Kompas Media

News coverage of the Hutan Harapan forest in Jambi Province in Kompas tends to focus on various themes, but remains within the context of environmental issues. The themes covered range from forest restoration and the green economy to forest conflicts, forest ecosystems, deforestation, and even forest reforestation.

### 2) News at Tribun Jambi Media

News coverage of Hutan Harapan in Jambi Province tends to raise major environmental themes. The themes raised by Kompas media include forest restoration, green economy, forest conflicts, forest ecosystems, deforestation and forest reforestation, which are also themes featured in news narratives published by Tribun Jambi media. However, the topics presented in these media outlets are more localized, mainly featuring news narratives that highlight the people of Jambi and the outcomes of forest utilization and the Hutan Harapan program, which are also covered in news published by the Tribun Jambi media outlet.

Through an analysis of the discourse in Kompas and Tribun Jambi, it can be seen that the keyword Hutan Harapan refers not only to the Hutan Harapan in Jambi Province but also to Hutan Harapan that is not related to the research, such as Hutan Harapan in the Ngawi area. Meanwhile, discussions about Hutan Harapan in Jambi Province include forest fires, forest encroachment, and illegal logging. Meanwhile, the main paragraph of each news article includes an introduction or background on Hutan Harapan, such as its location in Jambi Province and its biodiversity.

## 3.2. Discussion

In conclusion, the theory used in this study is discourse analysis. Using discourse analysis, it can be seen that forest restoration, the green economy, and conflicts in the Hutan Harapan forest are issues that cause dilemmas in forest restoration. Although the restoration of the Harapan Forest ecosystem is very important for the future of humanity, this is not in line with the welfare of the communities living around the forest, namely the residents of Kuningan Jaya II Village and the Anak Dalam tribe, who depend on forest products for their daily needs. The discourse surrounding Harapan Forest demonstrates that ecosystem restoration is not merely an environmental project but also a political process through which legitimacy, authority, and access to natural resources are negotiated. Through media narratives, different actors compete to define the meaning of conservation, sustainability, and forest governance.

A critical discourse analysis of Kompas and Tribun Jambi reveals that both media outlets consistently frame ecosystem restoration as a legitimate and necessary environmental intervention. Restoration is associated with biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, and sustainable development. Within this narrative, PT REKI and its international partners are frequently positioned as legitimate guardians of the forest, while conservation activities are represented as solutions to environmental degradation. Such representations contribute to the construction of restoration as a morally desirable project that deserves public and institutional support.

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However, this conservation narrative simultaneously produces a particular understanding of conflict. Communities occupying or utilizing forest land are frequently described as “encroachers,” “illegal loggers,” or actors contributing to environmental destruction. This framing simplifies complex tenure disputes by emphasizing legal and environmental dimensions while often overlooking historical claims, livelihood dependencies, and unequal access to land. From a political ecology perspective, environmental conflicts are not solely the result of illegal activities but also emerge from competing claims over resource control and authority. The findings indicate the existence of asymmetrical power relations among stakeholders. Government institutions, conservation organizations, and international actors possess greater discursive power because they are frequently cited as authoritative sources within media coverage. Their perspectives dominate discussions regarding restoration objectives, conservation priorities, and environmental governance strategies.

In contrast, local communities and indigenous groups appear primarily as objects of policy implementation rather than active producers of environmental narratives. Their voices are generally represented through conflict-related stories rather than through discussions of decision-making processes. This imbalance reflects broader patterns of environmental governance in which global conservation agendas often possess greater visibility and legitimacy than local perspectives. The role of transnational actors further reinforces these power dynamics. Organizations such as BirdLife International, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and international donors are portrayed as providers of financial resources, technical expertise, and conservation solutions. Their involvement illustrates the operation of global environmental governance, where environmental management increasingly depends on networks that transcend national boundaries. Consequently, environmental authority is shared not only by the Indonesian state but also by international conservation actors that influence restoration priorities and governance practices.

The discourse analysis reveals a fundamental dilemma within ecosystem restoration efforts. On one hand, restoration seeks to preserve biodiversity, reduce deforestation, and maintain ecological sustainability. On the other hand, local communities depend on forest resources for economic survival. As a result, restoration policies frequently intersect with livelihood concerns, creating tensions between conservation objectives and socio-economic realities. The green economy discourse seeks to reconcile these competing interests through social forestry programs, partnership schemes, agroforestry initiatives, and the development of non-timber forest products. Media narratives often portray these initiatives as win-win solutions that simultaneously improve environmental protection and community welfare.

Nevertheless, the findings suggest that these programs do not eliminate underlying structural tensions. While social forestry provides legal access and economic opportunities, conflicts over land tenure, resource access, and forest management authority persist. This indicates that the green economy functions not only as an environmental strategy but also as a governance mechanism that seeks to manage social conflict through regulated participation rather than through fundamental redistribution of power and resources.

The analysis demonstrates that conflict is framed differently depending on the actor involved. In many reports, conflict is presented as a law-enforcement issue resulting from

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illegal encroachment, forest clearing, or violations of conservation regulations. This framing tends to attribute responsibility to local actors and positions restoration institutions as victims of environmental crime.

However, alternative narratives highlight that conflicts also stem from unresolved tenure claims, historical exclusion, and competing interpretations of legitimate forest use. The twenty-year dispute over management rights illustrates that conflict cannot be understood solely as a legal problem. Instead, it reflects deeper struggles over ownership, recognition, and participation in environmental governance. This finding suggests that media discourse does not merely report environmental conflict but actively shapes how the public understands it. By emphasizing particular actors, events, and explanations, media narratives influence perceptions of legitimacy, responsibility, and appropriate policy responses. The comparison between Kompas and Tribun Jambi reveals distinct discursive orientations. Kompas predominantly adopts a national and environmental governance perspective. Its reporting emphasizes conservation objectives, restoration programs, biodiversity protection, and policy developments. Consequently, environmental issues are frequently framed within broader discussions of sustainability and national environmental management.

In contrast, Tribun Jambi adopts a more localized perspective by highlighting the experiences of communities, regional stakeholders, and local conflicts. It is reporting pays greater attention to community partnerships, social forestry implementation, and disputes involving residents and restoration authorities. As a result, environmental governance appears more closely connected to everyday socio-economic realities. These differences indicate that media discourse is shaped by institutional orientation and target audiences. While Kompas tends to reinforce national conservation narratives, Tribun Jambi provides greater visibility to local social dynamics. Together, they produce competing yet complementary understandings of Harapan Forest governance.

The NVivo visualizations provide evidence of dominant discursive priorities. The frequent use of words such as “forest,” “restoration,” “community,” “area,” and “REKI” indicates that discussions surrounding Harapan Forest are primarily focused on governance and management rather than solely on ecological concerns. The prominence of terms associated with restoration reflects the dominance of conservation discourse within media narratives. Meanwhile, the recurring presence of terms related to communities, residents, and management rights suggests that social and political questions remain inseparable from environmental issues. Rather than viewing the word cloud and word tree merely as descriptive outputs, they can be interpreted as indicators of discursive struggles over how Harapan Forest should be governed, who possesses legitimate authority, and what forms of environmental management are considered acceptable.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The results of this study conclude that the Hutan Harapan (Forest of Hope) ecosystem restoration project initiated by Prince Charles in Bungku Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi, is not only about forest restoration and the green economy, but also about forest conflicts involving stakeholders, namely the transnational organizations Birdlife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (PSPB), which oversees

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Burung Indonesia and PT REKI, with the surrounding forest communities, namely the residents of Kuningan Jaya II Village and the Suku Anak Dalam (SAD). PT Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia now carries out the restoration of the remaining lowland forests on the island of Sumatra in accordance with Decree No. 327/Menhut-II/2010. The government also grants forest management rights to indigenous peoples and communities living around the forest through the Social Forestry program. However, before this program was implemented, forest conflicts between PT REKI and the village and indigenous communities occurred, even involving the kidnapping of forest rangers. The Social Forestry program can reduce these conflicts through a partnership scheme that invites villagers to become employees of PT REKI. However, conflicts persist among villagers, forest encroachers, indigenous communities, and PT REKI over management rights to the Harapan Forest.

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