

## Customary arrangements as entry points to implementing an integrated landscape approach in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan



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### Problem Statement

The Labian-Leboyan sub-watershed of the Kapuas River in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan (Indonesia) is an area where several indigenous communities are involved in natural resource disputes because competing statutory and customary regulations govern the land and resources. Interests also differ within communities, where members have different social-political and educational backgrounds, ages, and interests. Integrated Landscape Approaches (ILAs) aim to bridge different interests among stakeholders, especially regarding the conservation and use of natural resources. Little attention has been given so far to the role of customary arrangements as entry points for the implementation of ILAs. Since it is unclear how different people perceive and understand their customary laws and concepts, this study aims to gain insights into how customary governance arrangements are understood and what are the potential and hindrances of using them as entry points to inclusively engage local communities in integrated landscape approaches.

### Research Question

How are customary arrangements being understood across and within different communities in the Labian-Leboyan sub-watershed of Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, and what are the prospects of using them as entry points in current landscape initiatives?

### Theoretical Framework

The study will combine theoretical strands from legal pluralism, customary law, polycentric governance, indigenous and traditional knowledge, community-based natural resource management and ecosystem management.

### Methodology

Fieldwork is carried out in four villages along the Labian-Leboyan River in Kapuas Hulu, Indonesia. The qualitative study design encompasses semi-structured interviews, focus groups, participatory mapping, and participant observation, the data of which will be triangulated with a structured review of peer-reviewed articles, policy documents and grey literature.

### Expected Results

The study will generate insights into (i) how community members with different geographical, generational, political and social backgrounds perceive customary practice, (ii) the potential and constraints of using customary arrangements as entry points for the implementation of ILAs, and (iii) the prospects of using customary arrangements for effective and inclusive stakeholder engagement in integrated landscape approaches.

### Expected Graduation

June 2022