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Evaluation of Community Forest Performance in Sesaot Village, West Lombok Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate the performance of Community Forest management (CF) in Sesaot Village and identify supporting and inhibiting factors in its implementation. The evaluation was conducted based on four aspects: administration, ecology, social and economic, referring to the indicators of Ministerial Regulation of the Environment and Forestry No. 9 year of 2021. Data collection was conducted through observation, interviews, questionnaires, and document review, while analysis used quantitative scoring and qualitative analysis. The results showed that the performance of CF in Sesaot was in the High category with a total score of 161 out of 270. The ecological and social aspects were in the Medium category, characterized by maintained forest cover, good agroforestry implementation, effective area protection, and increased income and changes in community behavior. However, the administrative and economic aspects remained low due to the loss of management plan documents, weak business institutions, and the underutilization of environmental services. The main supporting factors came from stable ecological conditions and community participation, while obstacles included weak administration, minimal conservation, low female participation, and suboptimal business development. Overall, the management of CF in Sesaot was quite good but required administrative and economic strengthening to achieve sustainability

INTRODUCTION

Community Forestry (CF) is a social forestry scheme that grants management rights to forest communities to improve their economic well-being while maintaining ecological sustainability. This scheme was developed as a solution to various forestry issues in Indonesia, such as poverty among forest communities, tenure conflicts, and land degradation resulting from unsustainable management practices. Through the legal framework of Law Number 41 of 1999 and Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Number 9 of 2021, the government emphasizes the need for criteria and indicators of success as a basis for evaluating CF management performance to achieve empowerment and sustainability goals.

The implementation of CF in Sesaot Village, West Lombok Regency, managed by the Mitra Sesaot Community Forest Conservation Group (KMPH), serves as an example of social forestry implementation that demonstrates positive results. Through the Social Forestry permit mechanism, the community gains legal access to manage the Sesaot Forest Area, thereby improving their well-being. (Markum *et al.*, 2021). Research by Yumantoko *et al.*, (2024), revealed that community participation in forest management in Sesaot is quite high, both in conservation activities and the use of non-timber forest products. Furthermore, local wisdom values such as mutual cooperation, equitable land distribution, and family-based management patterns contribute to the success of this program, as explained by (Hidayat, 2012).

However, although the Sesaot Community Forest (CF) has been operating for quite some time, previous research has focused more on its effectiveness and implementation, while administrative, ecological, social, and economic aspects have not been comprehensively evaluated. This situation indicates the need for an in-depth study to assess the extent to which CF management in Sesaot Village meets the evaluation standards stipulated in Ministerial Regulation No. 9 of 2021. Therefore, this study was conducted with the aim of comprehensively evaluating the performance of CF

management in Sesaot Village and identifying supporting and inhibiting factors in its implementation. This comprehensive evaluation is expected to provide scientific input for strengthening sustainable community-based forest management.

METHODS

This research was conducted from March to April 2026 in the Community Forest (CF) area of Sesaot Village, Narmada District, West Lombok Regency. The location was selected purposively because it has an active Social Forestry permit and was managed by the Mitra Sesaot Community Forest Conservation Group (KMPH).

The instruments used included questionnaires, interviews, observation sheets, documentation tools, and evaluation instruments that refer to Ministerial Regulation No. 9 of 2021 as the standard for assessing CF management performance. These instruments were used to obtain quantitative data on indicator achievement as well as qualitative data related to social, administrative, and ecological dynamics in the field.

Data collection was conducted through observation, interviews, questionnaires, literature studies, and document review. Observations were used to record biophysical conditions and management activities, as defined by observation as the systematic recording of research phenomena (Hasibuan *et al.*, 2023). In-depth interviews were conducted to explore the experiences, constraints, and perceptions of forest managers, as explained by (Huberman & Miles, 1992; Romdona *et al.*, 2025). Questionnaires are used to collect quantitative data efficiently (Romdona *et al.*, 2025). Literature studies provide theoretical context, while document reviews help verify administrative and scoring evidence. (Sari *et al.*, 2023).

The data consists of quantitative data in the form of indicator scores and qualitative data in the form of narratives from interviews and observations. This type of data follows the classification (Ashari *et al.*, 2017). Data sources consist of primary data (respondents, observations, questionnaires) and

secondary data (group documents, block maps, agency reports, and previous research).

The number of respondents was determined through a combination of cluster sampling, purposive sampling, and Slovin. Respondents were grouped into three clusters: (1) Sesaot's CF Administrators, (2) Sesaot's CF Members, and (3) NTB Region I of Forest Management Unit (KPH) Apparatus. With a population of 898 HKm members, the minimum sample size was calculated using the

Slovin formula with a 15% margin of error, resulting in 42 member respondents, plus 2 administrators, and 2 KPH apparatus, so that the total number of respondents was 46 people. The snowball technique was used to determine key informants who understood CF management in depth (Ananda *et al.*, 2023).

The research variables refer to four evaluation aspects in Ministerial Regulation No. 9 of 2021, see Table-1:

Table 1. Research Variables

No	Aspect	Criteria
1	Administration	a. Availability of Social Forestry planning documents
2	Ecology	a. The function and status of forest areas can be maintained according to their designation. b. Improvement of land cover c. Biodiversity d. Improvement of hydrological conditions e. Forest protection
3	Social	a. Improving the welfare of groups/communities/villages b. Strengthening the institutional framework for accountable and transparent Social Forestry agreement holders c. Changes in the behavior of PS approval holders and members d. Conflict resolution e. Gender equality f. Contribution of forest management to villages/communities in general g. Support from various parties for Social Forestry h. Innovative activities in social forestry management
4	Economy	a. Forest resource governance b. Governance of timber forest products c. Governance of non-timber forest products d. Environmental services governance; and/or e. Administration of forest products

Source: Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation Number 9 of 2021.

Data analysis in this study was conducted by combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to comprehensively assess the performance of CF management in Sesaot Village. The quantitative analysis was conducted using a scoring system based on the indicators of Ministerial Regulation of the Environment and Forestry No. 9 of 2021, with a score range of 0-3, which was then multiplied by the weighting of administrative (4), ecological (3), social

(2), and economic (1) aspects. This weighting is important because it shows the differences in importance between parameters (Agustina, 2025).

The total interval value is then classified into very low (0-67), low (68-135), high (136-203) and very high (204-270) categories. This value interval is used to determine the general assessment of CF performance in that period. Meanwhile, the percentage is used to determine the performance

category per aspect into low (<60%), moderate (61-80%) and good (>81%), following the assessment method used by (Ananda *et al.*, 2023).

Qualitative analysis was conducted based on interviews, observations, and document examination, following an interactive model (Huberman & Miles, 1992; Romdona *et al.*, 2025). Descriptive analysis is used to assess supporting and inhibiting factors, where high-value indicators are considered supportive and low-value indicators are inhibitors, according to the principles of data interpretation in tabular and narrative form.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Location

The Sesaot Forest area in Narmada District, West Lombok Regency, covers an area of approximately 5,990 ha and is part of the Rinjani Forest and an important water catchment area for the Jangkok Watershed, with over 40 springs. Initially designated as a Limited Production Forest, the area was designated as a Protected Forest through Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 756/Kpts/Um/1982 and is now within the working area of the KPH Region I NTB. CF management is carried out by the KMPH with a total area of 3,857 ha, of which 185 ha have obtained management permits from 898 farmers after area adjustments through Letter Number 522/13/Dishut-prod/I/2012. The KMPH, established in 1996, functions to unite farmer groups in coordinated forest management to reduce illegal logging and improve the welfare of the communities in villages of Sesaot, Lebah Sempage, and Sedau (Sesaot, 2016).

Respondent Description

The general description of respondents in this study includes gender, age, and area of cultivated land to understand the socio-economic characteristics of Sesaot's CF managers (Bryan *et al.*, 2024). Respondents were dominated by men, 30 people, while 16 people were women, reflecting the gender participation inequality as found Siscawati, (2020), that women often have limited access to social forestry programs. In terms of age, the 50-59 age group is the largest, namely 25 people (54.35%), followed by 13 people aged 40-49 years, 6 people aged 60-69 years, and the youngest group of 30-39 years only 2 people, indicating that CF activities are more often carried out by mature productive age groups with higher experience (Zahra & Wulandari, 2024). All respondents have the same area of cultivated land, area of 0.16 ha according to IUPHKm Decree 2130/65/DISHUT/2009, and this uniformity is important for equal access and the success of agroforestry (Nandini, 2018). This overview provides a clearer understanding of community involvement in the management of Sesaot CF and forms the basis for interpreting the results of subsequent evaluations.

CF Performance Analysis

Administrative Aspects

Table 2 shows presents the results of the evaluation of the administrative aspects of the Sesaot CF, which include three main indicators: (1) availability of PS Approval Decrees and work area maps, (2) availability of long-term and short-term PS Management Plan documents, and (3) the existence of PS activity implementation reports. The following are the results of the evaluation of the administrative aspects:

Table 2. Assessment of Administrative Aspects

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
1	availability of planning documents	Availability of Social Forestry approval decree and work area map.	0-12	12
		Availability of long-term and short-term Social Forestry management plan documents that have been approved by authorized officials.	0-12	0

The existence of reports on the implementation of social forestry.	0-12	0
Total Value	0-36	12
Total Assessment/Highest Score	36	12
Percentage	33.33%	
Assessment Category	Not enough	

Source: Processed Primary Data (2026)

Based on Table 2, the Sesaot Community Forestry (HKm) administration aspect received a score of 12 out of 36, or 33.33%, making it categorized as "poor." This low score is due to the unavailability of the Social Forestry Work Plan (RKPS) and activity reports, which are essential components of institutional management. The missing documents indicate that the group's archiving and administrative governance systems are not yet functioning optimally.

Administration is a crucial indicator in assessing the performance of social forestry institutions because it serves as the basis for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating activities. Having complete institutional documentation will facilitate group program management, accountability for activities, and ensuring the sustainability of area management. Conversely, weak administration can hamper decision-making and reduce the effectiveness of group management.

The results of this study indicate that the administrative performance of the Sesaot Community Forestry Group (HKm Sesaot) remains lower than that of several other social forestry groups. Ananda *et al.*, (2023), reported that the Alam Lestari Farmers' Group (Gapoktan Alam Lestari) had complete administrative documents, including articles of association (AD/ART), customary laws (awiq-awiq), cultivator cards, and well-organized activity documentation. Meanwhile, Fikri *et al.*, (2025) found that the Merte Sari Community Forestry Group (HKm Merte Sari) also had relatively

complete institutional documentation, although it still faced obstacles in disseminating program information to members. This difference indicates that complete administrative documentation plays a crucial role in supporting the effectiveness of social forestry institutional management.

The low level of administrative performance in the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) has the potential to impact other management aspects, particularly work program development, activity reporting, and group performance evaluation. Therefore, efforts to strengthen administration are needed through the restructuring of the RKPS (Work Plan and Work Plan) documents, restructuring the institutional archives system, and preparing regular activity reports. Strengthening administrative aspects is expected to increase the effectiveness of Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) management and support the sustainability of the social forestry program.

Ecological Aspects

Table 3 shows presents the results of the evaluation of the ecological aspects of the CF, which consist of five main criteria: (1) suitability of area use to its function and status, (2) improvement of forest cover, (3) biodiversity, (4) hydrological conditions of the area, and (5) forest protection. Each criterion includes a number of assessment indicators, including area utilization activities, vegetation cover conditions, the presence of endemic species, the quality of water sources, and efforts to prevent forest disturbances. The following are the results of the ecological aspect evaluation:

Table 3. Ecological Aspect Assessment

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
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1	The function and status of forest areas can be maintained according to their designation.	Forest utilization activities are in accordance with the function and status of the area.	0-9	9
2	Improvement of forest cover	Maintaining and improving forest conditions from other uses, land occupation and fires.	0-9	8
		Minimum adequacy of forestry staple crops.	0-9	9
		Social forestry cultivation patterns.	0-9	9
3	Biodiversity	Increasing the diversity of plant and animal species.	0-9	6
		Maintaining and increasing endemic species.	0-9	0
4	Improvement of hydrological conditions	Maintaining or increasing the number of water sources in social forestry areas.	0-9	0
		The quality of water sourced from springs.	0-9	0
5	Forest protection	The level of illegal logging incidents.	0-9	9
		Prevention and handling of forest and land fires.	0-9	8
		Forest maintenance and protection activities.	0-9	9
Total Value			0-99	67
Total Assessment/Highest Score			99	67
Percentage			67.68%	
Assessment Category			Currently	

Source: Processed Primary Data (2026).

Based on Table 3, the ecological aspect of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) received a score of 67 out of 99, or 67.68%, and is categorized as moderate. This score indicates that the area's ecological function is still well maintained, particularly through the implementation of agroforestry systems, plant maintenance activities, and routine area patrols. These practices contribute to maintaining land cover and reducing the potential for forest damage.

According to the concept of sustainable forest management, successful forest management is determined not only by the economic benefits generated but also by the ability to maintain the area's ecological functions, including biodiversity conservation and water management. In this study, the ecological aspect score did not reach the good category due to low achievement in endemic species conservation and hydrology indicators. This condition is caused by the lack of a planned

conservation program and limited data and hydrological monitoring objects in the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) area.

The results of this study indicate that the ecological management of the Sesaot HKm is still more oriented towards maintaining the area's cover rather than comprehensive conservation and environmental monitoring efforts. This finding aligns with Fikri *et al.*, (2025) who reported that limited biophysical data collection was one of the obstacles in community forest management. Meanwhile, Ananda *et al.*, (2023), showed that groups with better biodiversity documentation tended to have higher ecological aspect achievements.

Therefore, improving the ecological performance of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) requires strengthening conservation activities, conducting biodiversity inventories, and regularly monitoring environmental conditions.

These efforts are crucial to supporting the sustainability of the area's ecological function while also improving the overall quality of community forest management.

Social Aspects

Table 4 shows the results of the evaluation of the social aspects of CF Sesaot which includes eight main criteria, namely: (1) improving the welfare of groups/communities/villages, (2) strengthening the

institutions of social forestry agreement holders, (3) changes in the behavior of administrators and members, (4) conflict resolution, (5) gender sensitivity and perspective, (6) contribution of forest management to the village, (7) support from stakeholders, and (8) innovative activities in PS management. The following are the results of the evaluation of the social aspects:

Table 4. Assessment of Social Aspects

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
1	Improving the welfare of groups/communities/villages	Increasing the income of members and groups involved in forest management/utilization.	0-6	6
2	Strengthening the institutional framework for accountable and transparent social forestry agreement holders	The institutional capacity of groups in carrying out forest utilization and management activities has increased.	0-6	2
		Increased member participation in social forestry group activities.	0-6	3
		There is a process of transferring knowledge, leadership and responsibility in social forestry management organizations.	0-6	4
3	Changes in the behavior of the management and members holding the agreement	Improving social forestry business institutions.	0-6	2
		Changes in behavior and mindset from exploitative to caring about sustainable management have been made.	0-6	6
4	Conflict resolution	The existence of SOPs for resolving conflicts and/or disputes in management has been.	0-6	6
		Implementation of conflict and/or dispute resolution processes in forest resource management.	0-6	6
5	Sensitivitas dan perspektif gender	Representation of women and other marginalized groups in the management of institutions holding social forestry agreements.	0-6	5
		Level of participation (attendance, number/composition).	0-6	3
		Involvement of female administrators and members in organizational	0-6	3

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
		activities and forest management/utilization.		
6	Contribution of forest management to villages/communities	There are funds/assistance from forest managers that are donated for village development activities.	0-6	0
7	Support from various parties for social forestry	There is support from various parties for the development of social forestry in accordance with the rights of social forestry agreement holders.	0-6	3
8	Innovative activities in social forestry management	The holder of the target set is able to build, work together in his work area.	0-6	5
Total Value			0-84	54
Total Assessment/Highest Score			84	54
Percentage			64.29%	
Assessment Category			Currently	

Source: Processed Primary Data (2026)

Based on Table 4, the social aspect of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) obtained a score of 54 out of 84 (64.29%) and is categorized as moderate. This achievement is supported by good relationships between members, changes in community behavior in protecting forest areas, and a conflict resolution mechanism through awiq-awiq that is still effective. According to Martono, (2020), the success of social forestry is greatly influenced by institutional capacity, member participation, and the group's ability to manage the business sustainably. However, the institutional capacity of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) is still not optimal, as indicated by the change of management without a fresh decree, ineffective business management, and low group income, resulting in limited contribution to village development.

Women's participation in group activities and decision-making remains relatively low due to social and institutional barriers. These findings suggest that organizational strengthening and member empowerment are still needed to improve the social

performance of HKm. These findings align with Fikri *et al.*, (2025), who found that institutions are a limiting factor in HKm management, but differ from Ananda *et al.*, (2023) who reported higher levels of member participation and institutional capacity. Therefore, institutional strengthening, increased management capacity, and expanded women's involvement are necessary to support the sustainable management of HKm Sesaot.

Economic Aspects

The economic aspect assesses the group's ability to utilize forest resources to increase income and business sustainability. In general, economic indicators indicate that the group has implemented agroforestry systems, utilized non-timber forest products (NTFPs), has easy market access, and has several supporting infrastructure facilities. However, the utilization of environmental services and business institutions has not been optimal, resulting in low economic value. The following are the results of the economic aspect evaluation:

Table 5. Assessment of economic aspects

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
1	Forest resource governance	The existence and recognition of boundary marks for social forestry work areas with surrounding management/utilization areas.	0-3	2
		The existence of a work area map, which has been divided into zones and/or management/utilization areas.	0-3	3
		There is no transfer of social forestry approval decrees and their implementation from the approval holder to other parties in various forms.	0-3	3
		Implementation of an agroforestry system that is adaptive and appropriate to local conditions.	0-3	3
		The use of environmentally friendly forest management or utilization technology that is more effective and productive.	0-3	3
		Realization of planting and maintenance of commodity crops that produce economic benefits.	0-3	3
2	Governance of timber forest products	Realization of utilization and/or collection of wood forest products (hhk) in accordance with the work plan.	0-3	1
3	Governance of non-timber forest products	Realization of non-timber forest product (hhbk) utilization activities, including the utilization of understory plants, in accordance with the work plan.	0-3	3
4	Governance of environmental service forest products	Realization of environmental service utilization activities, including the utilization of ecotourism, water and carbon environmental services in accordance with the work plan.	0-3	0
5	Administration of forest products	The existence of social forestry business institutions that are already running.	0-3	1
		Market access capability in marketing hhk/hhbk/environmental service products.	0-3	3
		Adequate resource capabilities such as infrastructure assets, access to capital and partners (networks) to run social forestry businesses.	0-3	2
		Information systems management and marketing management.	0-3	2
		Ecotourism environmental services.	0-3	0
		Water utilization environmental services.	0-3	0
		Environmental services of carbon utilization.	0-3	0
		Fulfillment of obligations to pay non-tax state revenue/non-tax state revenue, such as business	0-3	0

No	Criteria	Indicator	Score interval	Assessment Results
		licensing fees for the utilization and provision of forest resources.		
	Total Value		0-51	28
	Total Assessment/Highest Score		51	28
	Percentage		54.90%	
	Assessment Category		Not enough	

Source: Processed Primary Data (2026)

Based on Table 5, the economic aspect of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) received a score of 28 out of 51 (54.90%) and is categorized as poor. Although the community has implemented an agroforestry system and utilized non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as durian, coffee, and multipurpose tree species (MPTS), the resulting economic benefits are still not optimal. This low achievement is influenced by the lack of a recent management decree, documents on timber forest product collection plans, and limited access to capital, partnerships, and marketing. In social forestry management, the economic aspect is a crucial factor determining the sustainability of management because it serves as a source of incentives for the community to maintain forest areas.

The results of this study indicate that the economic potential of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) has not been fully utilized. In fact, research by Markum *et al.*, (2023), reported that the mahogany agroforestry pattern in the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) has high carbon stocks, reaching around 136 tons/ha, thus having the potential to be developed as a carbon-based environmental service. Compared with Gapoktan Alam Lestari (Ananda *et al.*, 2023; Fikri *et al.*, 2025), which already has more developed group business activities, the economic performance of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) is still relatively low. Therefore, strengthening economic institutions, developing business partnerships, and utilizing the potential of environmental services is needed to increase economic benefits for the community.

General Assessment of the Performance Evaluation of the Sesaot Village Community Empowerment Agency

The total score for the four aspects of Sesaot CF management was 161 out of a maximum score of 270. Based on the assessment interval, this score is in the High category (136-203), indicating that the overall performance of Sesaot CF management is high. The best achievements are seen in the ecological and social aspects, while the administrative and economic aspects still require strengthening. To achieve more optimal and sustainable management, the group needs to complete planning documents, increase economic contributions, and begin developing potential environmental services so that the benefits of CF are increasingly felt by the community.

Supporting and inhibiting factors

The supporting and inhibiting factors for the management of Sesaot CF show that the success of management is mainly supported by the ecological conditions which are still good, the implementation of agroforestry, low levels of illegal logging, and fairly stable social participation, in line with the findings (Ananda *et al.*, 2023; Fikri *et al.*, 2025). Economic support also arises from the presence of agroforestry commodities and local market access, while the considerable carbon potential indicates untapped opportunities for developing environmental services (Markum *et al.*, 2013).

Inhibiting factors include weak administration, such as missing management plan documents and activity reports, low institutional capacity, and minimal development of productive businesses. Ecological barriers also arise from the lack of endemic species conservation programs and

hydrological monitoring, while social aspects are still influenced by the low level of women's involvement, as revealed by the study (Bryan *et al.*, 2024; Siscawati, 2020), Economic constraints such as price instability, lack of capital, and the lack of processing facilities also weaken the group's performance. Therefore, strengthening administration, increasing institutional capacity, and developing businesses are crucial steps to improve the sustainability of Sesaot Community Forest management.

This research was limited to evaluating the performance of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot), so the results obtained cannot yet reflect the condition of all community forest groups in other areas. Furthermore, several important documents, such as the Social Forestry Work Plan (RKPS) and activity reports, were unavailable due to loss or inadequate documentation, thus affecting the completeness of the administrative aspect assessment. The ecological aspect assessment was also limited by the lack of regularly documented biodiversity and hydrological monitoring data. Therefore, future research is recommended to involve more HKm locations and use more comprehensive ecological, social, and economic data to improve the accuracy of social forestry performance evaluations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the performance of Sesaot Village HKm management is in the high category with a score of 161 out of 270. Ecological and social aspects are in the moderate category, characterized by maintained forest cover, well-implemented agroforestry, effective area protection, and changes in community behavior in forest management. However, administrative and economic aspects are still in the poor category due to the unavailability of planning documents and activity reports, weak business institutions, and the unutilized potential of environmental services. This condition indicates that in general the management of Sesaot HKm has been

running quite well, but still requires strengthening in the governance and economic aspects of the group.

Supporting factors for the management of the Sesaot Community Forest (HKm Sesaot) include stable ecological conditions, successful area protection, implementation of an agroforestry system, utilization of non-timber forest products, and member involvement in maintaining forest sustainability. Conversely, inhibiting factors include weak institutional administration, low organizational capacity, limited women's participation, and the underdevelopment of group businesses and utilization of environmental services. Therefore, the KPH Region I NTB together with the Sesaot Community Forest Management (HKm Sesaot) needs to strengthen the administrative system by re-drafting planning documents and periodically reporting activities. In addition, the local government and related parties need to facilitate the development of non-timber forest product-based businesses, expand access to partnerships and marketing, and encourage the development of environmental service schemes, including the potential for carbon trading, to increase community economic benefits and support the sustainability of HKm management.

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