Introduction

- There are plenty of Indonesian forest areas lied in condition of not being governed and neglected. It was initially perceived as conflicting area due to government vagueness to deal with other stakeholder preferences on appropriate land-use for those resources.
- A well-known approach to systems design that focuses on explicating different perspectives is Soft Systems Methodology (SSM). It has been widely used and successfully in many complicate problem situations.
- Nevertheless, both Indonesian researchers and practitioners were still unfamiliar with SSM. Moreover in the case of forest management, SSM was considered as complicated and time-consuming approach. However, it is not always true.

Methods

Reading the Context

- Agroforestry Block is part of Benakat Forest Zone for Special Purpose (research). It was de jure controlled by Palembang Forestry Research Institute (PFRI), as an agroforestry research site.
- Most of the area had been converted to rubber fields by villagers from two villages within and surrounding Agroforestry Block. Villagers did not allow outsiders, esp. forestry officers, to use this land.
- Above situation and the current manifest conflict between villagers with PT. MHP were the reasons both researchers and managers of PFRI to elude from their jobs to take care of Agroforestry Block (Fig. 1).

Results

The salient process of SSM in this research.

- Understanding and expressing problem situation

It happened when all of individual different views on the existence of Agroforestry Block became apparent, the discussion seemed to be chaotic, the actors intended to retreat from conference forum, but they were satisfied in terms of their emotion after expelling some burned ideas in the front of their old opponent.

- Identification of possible solution on issue

Conflict led to the need of transformation

- System analysis on Agroforestry Block Management

Contrary Actors could arrange a conceptual model
- Choosing reliable scenario towards transformation

Actors decided to put on priority for the transformation of ‘laws and rules’. Five proposed actions in ‘laws and rules’ conceptual model have been arranged in sequence step in direction to two transformation indicators. They were 1) inventorying land asset, 2) establishing user group, 3) making letter of agreement between land user and PFRI, 4) hold extension on forestry law and regulation, 5) planting trees on unused land.

- Taking action

Up to 2009, there were three stays of management for Agroforestry Block have being done, namely 1) inventorying land asset, 2) establishing user group, and 3) planting trees on unused land.

Conclusions

It’s concluded that intervention phase of SSM which driven by reflective facilitation could enhance social learning among contrary actors, so that offered the action plan as new pathway towards the future of Agroforestry Block.

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Figure 2. The basic design of SSM applied