From Litigation to Negotiation: Finding a Breakthrough on Land Tenure Policies in Mount Halimun-Salak National Park, Indonesia

Background

The Government of Indonesia (GoI) declared Mount Halimun-Salak as national park in 2003 due to the forest ecosystems richness and hydrological function. It covers a vast area of 113,357 hectares. The people living within its boundaries saw this as infringement on their customary rights and started several litigation processes against the government. Land tenure security was the main source of conflicts and ICRAF tried to solve it through negotiation processes.

Several steps were used in the negotiation process and in designing agreements. The processes were done not solely by ICRAF, but also by others NGOs such as WG-T as mediator, HUMA as facilitator at government institutions and RMI as communities’ facilitator.

Multi-Level Negotiation

After assessing options for negotiation, a multi-level negotiation began. Multi-level negotiation was needed because each negotiation processes required different government bodies hierarchy to influence the making of an agreement.

All the negotiation processes were led by ICRAF’s partners and each negotiation processes level were being supported by ICRAF.

Steps to Negotiations and Agreement

Here ICRAF acted as advisor on science and research refinement and mainly focused on:
1. Land Tenure and History Assessment
2. Policy analysis, options and strategies for negotiation and agreement

Agreement for Land Tenure Security

ICRAF and partners have crafted two agreements that give better land tenure security for local communities within the national park boundaries.
1. Village with Conservation Designation under Special Zone of National Park
2. Regent Regulation on Customary Land and Rights within and surrounding National Park