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Exploring the Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Corrective Actions in Conservation Management: A Case Study from Taka Bonerate National Park, Indonesia

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Abstract

This research explores the socio-cultural dimensions of implementing corrective actions in conservation management at Taka Bonerate National Park, Indonesia. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, the study aims to understand how factors such as cultural norms, belief systems, and local power dynamics influence the implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions. Data were collected through participatory observation and in-depth interviews with key informants, including the Head of Taka Bonerate National Park, Head of Administration Sub-Division, Head of National Park Management Sections, Coordinator of Functional Position Group, and local community members. The findings reveal that the national park management has adopted various methods to identify potential abnormalities, such as routine patrols, monitoring, and collecting data and reports from field officers, while involving local community participation. However, challenges persist in the implementation of corrective actions, including limited resources, local power dynamics, and weak law enforcement. These findings reinforce the argument that effective management approaches must integrate technical, institutional, and socio-cultural aspects. By understanding and addressing the socio-cultural factors influencing the implementation of corrective actions, Taka Bonerate National Park managers can develop more adaptive and responsive management strategies to the local context. This study underscores the need for further research focusing on the socio-cultural dimensions of conservation management to develop more adaptive, responsive, holistic, and participatory management strategies in conservation areas. The findings contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the implementation of corrective actions in conservation management, highlighting the importance of considering socio-cultural dimensions for effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.

Keywords: *Conservation Management, Corrective Actions, Socio-Cultural Dimensions.*

INTRODUCTION

Corrective actions play a crucial role in conservation management, enabling managers to address deviations from standards and ensure effective conservation outcomes (Robbins & Coulter, 2007). Control theory emphasizes the importance of monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up to achieve organizational goals (Henri, 2006; Simons, 1994). In the context of protected areas, corrective actions are essential for mitigating threats to biodiversity and ensuring long-term sustainability (Hockings et al., 2006; Leverington et al., 2010).

Taka Bonerate National Park, located in the Selayar Islands Regency, Indonesia, is one of the largest marine protected areas in Southeast Asia (Hakim et al., 2017). This national park faces various conservation challenges, including illegal fishing, unsustainable tourism development, and climate change (Glaser et al., 2010; Nurdin et al., 2019). Addressing these threats requires effective corrective actions from the national park management (Achmad et al., 2020; Raharjo et al., 2021).

However, the success of corrective actions depends not only on technical and organizational aspects but also on socio-cultural dimensions (Berkes, 2007; Ostrom, 1990). Culture-based control theory emphasizes the importance of considering local norms, values, and beliefs in designing and implementing control mechanisms (Efferin & Hopper, 2007; Hauriasi & Davey, 2009). Previous research has shown that integrating traditional ecological knowledge and involving local communities can enhance the effectiveness of conservation actions (Drew, 2005; Shackeroff & Campbell, 2007).

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Nevertheless, understanding of the socio-cultural factors influencing the implementation of corrective actions in conservation areas remains limited (Kamoto et al., 2013; Ooft, 2008). Most studies focus on the technical and institutional aspects of control, while the socio-cultural dimensions are often overlooked (Gudynas, 2011; West et al., 2006). This gap needs to be addressed to develop more holistic and effective management approaches (Folke et al., 2005; Pomeroy et al., 2007).

This study aims to explore the socio-cultural dimensions of corrective actions in conservation management at Taka Bonerate National Park, Indonesia. Using a case study approach, this research seeks to understand how factors such as cultural norms, belief systems, and local power dynamics influence the implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research method, which aims to understand and describe the control function of the Taka Bonerate National Park Office in the Selayar Islands Regency. The research was conducted at the Taka Bonerate National Park Office and Taka Bonerate National Park in the Selayar Islands Regency for approximately two (2) months following the proposal seminar. Informants in this study were selected using purposive sampling technique (Sugiyono, 2017) and included the Head of Taka Bonerate National Park Office, Head of Administration Sub-Division, Head of National Park Management Section (Region I Tarupa), Head of National Park Management Section (Region II Jinato), Coordinator of Functional Position Group, and local community members. Data collection techniques used in this study were participatory observation and in-depth interviews. The data collected consisted of primary data obtained directly from informants and secondary data derived from archives, reports, and scientific publications. Data analysis was carried out through three stages: data reduction to identify patterns, themes, or relationships in the data; systematic data presentation in the form of narratives or visualizations; and drawing conclusions based on the findings obtained during data analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate the importance of considering socio-cultural dimensions in the implementation of corrective actions at Taka Bonerate National Park. These findings align with the culture-based control theory, which emphasizes the significance of considering local norms, values, and beliefs in designing and implementing control mechanisms (Efferin & Hopper, 2007; Hauriasi & Davey, 2009). Recent research also underscores the importance of adaptive and responsive management approaches to local contexts in conservation area management (Armitage et al., 2020; Berkes, 2021).

The management of Taka Bonerate National Park has adopted various methods to identify potential abnormalities, such as routine patrols, monitoring, and collecting data and reports from field officers. This approach not only considers technical aspects but also involves the participation of local communities in detecting suspicious activities or rule violations. This aligns with previous research showing that integrating traditional ecological knowledge and involving local communities can enhance the effectiveness of conservation actions (Drew, 2005; Shackeroff & Campbell, 2007). Recent studies also highlight the importance of collaboration between conservation area managers and local communities in natural resource management (Gavin et al., 2018; Waudby et al., 2021).

However, the findings of this study also reveal challenges in the implementation of corrective actions at Taka Bonerate National Park, such as the limited number of monitoring officers in hard-to-reach areas, the need for improvement in monitoring infrastructure, and the lack of effective law enforcement against violations. These challenges reflect the complexity of socio-cultural dimensions in conservation management, where factors such as resource limitations, local power dynamics, and weak law enforcement can affect the effectiveness of corrective actions (Kamoto et al., 2013; Ooft, 2008). Recent research also underlines the importance of addressing institutional and governance challenges in conservation area management (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2020; Geldmann et al., 2019).

The results of this study contribute to a more holistic understanding of the implementation of corrective actions in conservation management by considering socio-cultural dimensions. These findings reinforce the argument that effective management approaches must integrate technical, institutional, and socio-cultural aspects (Folke et al., 2005; Pomeroy et al., 2007). By understanding and addressing the socio-cultural factors influencing the implementation of corrective actions, the managers of Taka Bonerate National Park can develop management strategies that are more adaptive and responsive to the local context. Recent studies also emphasize the importance of flexible and adaptive management approaches in the face of environmental and social changes (Cumming et al., 2020; Schultz et al., 2019).

Based on the results of this study, it is evident that there is a need for further research focusing on the socio-cultural dimensions of conservation management. By exploring how cultural norms, belief systems, and local power dynamics influence the implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions, this research paves the way for the development of more holistic and participatory management approaches at Taka Bonerate National Park and other conservation areas. Recent research also highlights the importance of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in addressing complex challenges in biodiversity conservation (Bennett et al., 2017; Tengö et al., 2017).

CONCLUSION

This study explores the socio-cultural dimensions of implementing corrective actions in conservation management at Taka Bonerate National Park, Indonesia. The findings indicate that the national park management has adopted various methods to identify potential abnormalities by involving the participation of local communities, despite challenges such as resource limitations, local power dynamics, and weak law enforcement. These results reinforce the argument that effective management approaches must integrate technical, institutional, and socio-cultural aspects. Furthermore, the study underscores the need for further research focusing on the socio-cultural dimensions of conservation management to develop more adaptive, responsive, holistic, and participatory management strategies in conservation areas.

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