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Community Empowerment in Buffer Villages of Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) for Disaster Mitigation: A Case Study of Braja Kencana Village

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Abstract

Braja Kencana Village, a buffer village of Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) in East Lampung Regency, faces significant risks from natural disasters, especially forest fires and floods. The increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters, as well as exacerbated by climate change, requires a community-based disaster risk reduction program that can increase public awareness and readiness in disaster mitigation and response. This study aims to examine the process of community empowerment around TNWK in disaster mitigation, especially forest fires. This research method uses a qualitative approach with interviews, observations, and documentation to explore information from key informants such as village officials, members of the Forest Farmers Group (KTH), and members of the

Polhut Partner Community (MMP). The results of the study show that community empowerment in Braja Kencana Village is carried out through three stages of empowerment, namely the awareness stage, the capacity stage, and the awareness stage. The awareness stage was carried out through effective socialization to KTH members about the importance of empowerment programs and how they can contribute. The capacity building stage includes various educational and socialization activities to improve community knowledge and skills in disaster mitigation. The empowerment stage is in the form of providing facilities from TNWK such as land and grass seeds for animal feed, as well as sustainable business development to increase the economic independence of the community.

Keywords: Community Empowerment, Way Kambas National Park (TNWK), Disaster Mitigation, Climate Change

Introduction

Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world, consisting of more than 17,000 islands, and is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Due to this position, Indonesia is one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disasters (Emmanuel Ariananto Waluyo Adi, 2022) ^[11]. Indonesia is often hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of its location at the intersection of the Indo-Australian, Eurasian, and Pacific tectonic plates (Murdiaty *et al.*, 2020) ^[29]. In addition, Indonesia is also vulnerable to hydrometeorological disasters including floods, landslides, and tropical storms due to its tropical environment (Setiawan *et al.*, 2022) ^[38]. Indonesia is vulnerable to fires, especially protected forest fires, because of the two climates, namely the rainy season and the dry season (Ilmiah *et al.*, 2024) ^[17]. We recognize that bushfires and other natural disasters can have serious and long-term impacts on people and living things, such as impacts on mental health, education, housing, employment, finances, and relationships with family and the environment (MacDonald *et al.*, 2023) ^[25]. Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) located in East Lampung Regency is one of the conservation areas that faces various challenges of natural disasters, such as forest fires and floods (Pramono *et al.*, 2020) ^[35]. Disasters such as fires are prone to occur when the dry season arrives. Sensitive geographical conditions and ecosystems make the buffer villages around TNWK very vulnerable to disasters, thus requiring effective mitigation strategies (Harefa *et al.*, 2023) ^[16]. Braja Kencana Village is one of the TNWK buffer villages affected by fires and floods. Concerns in Braja Kencana Village, East Lampung Regency, have increased along with the severity of natural disasters in recent years (Nastiti *et al.*, 2021) ^[30]. These concerns are further exacerbated by the increasing impact of climate change (Awah *et al.*, 2024) ^[7]. Therefore, it is important to have a community-based disaster risk reduction program that aims to increase community awareness and mobilization to help predict, mitigate, and prevent hazards as well as to optimize & improve community preparedness, response, and resilience (Handayani *et al.*, 2022) ^[15]. It is important to establish and

assess emergency preparedness programs as the frequency and intensity of disasters increase (Tanipu & Hidayat, 2024) [43].

One way to implement this approach is to give greater authority to the community to reduce and overcome the impact of disasters, which takes the form of community empowerment in Braja Kencana Village. (Newnham *et al.*, 2023) [31]. Community empowerment is one of the key approaches to addressing these challenges. Conceptually, community empowerment is described as a social action undertaken by community members who come together to develop and implement group projects aimed at resolving community problems or satisfying community desires by utilizing available resources and talents. (Aziz *et al.*, 2020) [8]. Furthermore, Winarni (1998) stated that the core of empowerment consists of three things, namely creating independence, developing potential or power (empowering), and developing (enabling) (Kures *et al.*, 2015) [21]. One method for increasing community capacity is known as “community empowerment,” which involves determining how vulnerable a community is to disasters and involving them in the disaster response process (Fitrah *et al.*, 2021) [12]. Involving communities in disaster response has proven to be a useful method in emergency response because it can increase community resilience, improve communication, and reduce disaster risk. (Alhaffar *et al.*, 2023) [5]. To reduce negative impacts and prepare for future events, society must adapt to these increasing hazards (Nindy *et al.*, 2022) [32]. Through education and training, communities can understand the types of disasters that may occur in their area, such as floods, earthquakes, forest fires, or landslides. This knowledge includes the causes, impacts, and actions to be taken before, during, and after a disaster occurs, thereby increasing their awareness and preparedness (Prakoso *et al.*, 2021) [34].

In addition, it is also important to properly evaluate the level of exposure, resilience and vulnerability of communities in order to better identify who is most at risk from flood impacts and to guide adaptation strategies (Tyas *et al.*, 2020) [44]. The ability of a system to anticipate, accommodate, and recover from natural disasters to a condition comparable to or better than the condition before the disaster, in this case is referred to as resilience (Abunyewah *et al.*, 2023) [2]. Therefore, this method and problem solution emphasizes the resilience of communities that have sufficient knowledge and concern in dealing with disasters (Koem *et al.*, 2021) [20]. Community is the main pillar of social life because on this scale (Lahay *et al.*, 2020) [23], communities are encouraged to recognize needs and work together to meet them (Koem, 2019) [19]. Wrihatnolo and Dwidjowijoto explained that the empowerment process consists of three stages, namely the awareness stage, the capacity building stage, and the empowerment phase (Wati & Sudaryanti, 2021) [45]. The scientific novelty of this study lies in the emphasis on the active role of the community in disaster mitigation, especially in Braja Kencana Village. This study provides in-depth insights into how community empowerment through groups such as Community Forestry Partners (MMP) and Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) helps reduce human-wildlife conflict and improve community preparedness for disasters. This not only deepens our understanding of the subject matter but also provides a strong foundation for further studies in the field. The

importance of community empowerment in disaster mitigation initiatives is emphasized in this study, which shows that communities actively participate in the planning and implementation of mitigation programs in addition to being the object of program interests. This provides a new perspective on the approach to disaster mitigation in Indonesia, which often focuses more on government or external agency intervention. This study provides a new contribution to the understanding of disaster mitigation through community empowerment.



Source: TNWK Documentation

Fig 1: Fire Extinguishing in the TNWK Area, 2022

A common natural disaster in Indonesia is forest fires, which have a major impact on ecology, public health, and social and economic life in various regions of the country (Agustiar *et al.*, 2019) [3]. Forest and land fires (karhutla) are one of the most destructive and recurring environmental disasters in Indonesia. This phenomenon causes serious problems that threaten the sustainability of ecosystems, public health, and the country's economy. Way Kambas National Park (TNWK), which is an area that often faces great dangers of forest fires, is one of the areas that has high sensitivity to forest fires. Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) is located in a fire-prone area. The main causative factors are the long dry season and human activities.



Source: TNWK Documentation

Fig 2: Fire Extinguishing in TNWK Area, 2023

Table 1: Recapitulation Data of Incidents in Way Kambas National Park, 2021-2023

S. No	Fire Fighting Year	Hectares Burned	Number of Occurrences
1	January to December 2021	2042,73 Hectare	50
2	January to November 2022	5238 Hectare	55
3	Januari to December 2023	12596,78 Hectare	82

Source: TNWK Recapitulation Data

Based on the fire data above, the Way Kambas National Park Office has covered a number of forest fire incidents that occurred within a certain time period. In 2021, 50 fire incidents were recorded, in 2022, 55 fire incidents were recorded, and in 2023, 82 fire incidents have been recorded to date. This data shows that 2023 has the highest number of fire incidents compared to other years. This shows that there has been an increase in the number of fire incidents from 2022 to 2023. However, there has been a significant increase in the area burned in Way Kambas National Park from 2021 to 2023, which has a negative impact on the ecosystem, environment, and causes economic losses. the importance of handling and preventing forest fires to protect the sustainability of forests and wildlife, and the need for this data for mitigation planning, restoration, and increasing awareness of environmental conservation. For example, in 2021, forest fires covering an area of 2042.73 hectares have been recorded. In addition, forest fires also occurred from January to November 2022, devouring 5238 hectares of forest land in the Way Kambas National Park area. In 2023 from January to December, the area of fires increased again with 12596.78 hectares of land burned. This is certainly a concern for all elements in disaster mitigation.

The habitat and environment around Way Kambas National Park are significantly impacted by forest fires, as shown in the following images. Forest fires can cause significant damage to the ecology and economy, this is important to remember. Therefore, to reduce the negative impacts, forest fires in the Way Kambas National Park Office must be extinguished quickly and efficiently. Conservation of trees and animals in Way Kambas National Park also requires continuous improvement in forest fire prevention and control efforts. The recapitulation of forest fire data at the Way Kambas National Park Office is expected to help clarify the frequency and severity of forest fires in the area. This data can also be the basis for planning mitigation measures and restoration of burned forests, as well as raising awareness of the importance of environmental conservation and forest sustainability in Way Kambas National Park. The comparison of forest fires over the past three years also illustrates that forest fires are a serious threat to the ecosystem and environment around Way Kambas National Park.

With the occurrence of disasters such as fires, it is very important to empower the community. Community empowerment in the Way Kambas National Park area including in Braja Kencana Village includes empowerment such as KTH (Forest Farmer Group) and MMP (Forest Police Partner Community) which are useful for anticipating and resolving disaster problems in the TNWK area. The Forest Farmer Group (KTH) is a form of organization that contains rules that have been agreed upon by its members (Barki *et al.*, 2017)^[9]. Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) can be said to be organizations or institutions as a forum for realizing forests that have benefits for farmers in a

sustainable manner (GOOD, 2015)^[13]. Improving the welfare of communities living close to forests is the main objective of forming Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) so that they gain economic benefits and contribute to environmental conservation and improving forest management. This is done by encouraging them to use forest resources responsibly (Wibawanto *et al.*, 2023)^[46]. One of the KTHs in Braja Kencana Village is KTH Wana Jaya Kencana. KTH Wana Jaya Kencana was formed in March 2022 as a response to the needs of the community, the majority of whom work as livestock breeders, especially cattle breeders. Before the formation of KTH, livestock breeders often took grass for animal feed from within or around the TNWK area and could damage the environment in the TNWK area.

In addition to KTH, there is MMP in Braja Kencana Village which is a Community Partner of Forest Police formed by the forestry police. The purpose of forming this MMP is to assist the forestry police in terms of security and providing information on crime plans around TNWK (Mayasari *et al.*, 2014)^[26]. The MPP's main task is to assist the Forest Police so that community management also has a role in maintaining, protecting and preserving the TNWK area (Abe *et al.*, 2023)^[1]. Through community involvement, Forest Police can better protect the forest and animals, as well as directly encourage environmental conservation and preservation which is the main goal of this initiative (Wildanu S. Guntur & Sabar Slamet, 2019)^[47]. The MMP in Braja Kencana village itself was established to help resolve conflicts between humans and elephants that often enter residential areas and residents' rice fields.

This study aims to examine in depth the empowerment process of communities living around Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) in the context of disaster mitigation, with a particular focus on forest fire prevention and control. This study will evaluate various initiatives and programs that have been implemented to empower local communities, identify factors that support and hinder the effectiveness of these programs. This study will also analyze the active role of communities in managing forest fire risks, including their involvement in education, training, and field practice activities. Thus, the results of this study are expected to provide comprehensive insights into effective and sustainable empowerment strategies, as well as provide practical recommendations for stakeholders in efforts to increase community capacity in forest fire mitigation.

Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative method. Qualitative research is chosen because it brings researchers closer to informants to explore information related to the research object. A qualitative approach is essentially an approach that uses descriptive methods in the form of words and language in a certain natural context or by using various natural methods to understand a phenomenon regarding what the research subject experiences, such as behavior, perception, motivation, and actions holistically (Juwariyah *et al.*, 2018)^[18]. The qualitative research in question is to explore and understand the meaning of social problems in depth from key informants (Ahmad *et al.*, 2021)^[4]. The location of this research is in Braja Kencana Village, Braja Selebah District, East Lampung Regency. The informants are the Head of Village Planning, the Head and Secretary of KTH Jaya Kencana, the Head of KTH Wana Jaya Kencana, and members of the MMP of Braja Kencana Village. Any

research method must include data collection as an important step because without appropriate and relevant data, the findings will not have a strong foundation. In addition, because the data collection approach serves to achieve the main objective of the research to obtain the data needed for analysis and produce reliable conclusions, this is considered the most strategic step in the research process (Setyoningsih & Krismayani, 2023) ^[39]. Primary data derived from direct interviews with informants, and secondary data derived from observation and document collection are the sources and types of data used in this study. These two forms of data when combined provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of the subject being studied (Wati & Sudaryanti, 2021) ^[45]. Data regarding the physical condition of the research area was obtained through observation, information on the implementation of community empowerment programs was obtained through interviews with subjects or informants, and documentation techniques were used to complement observation and interview techniques in qualitative research (Shifa & Ilyas, 2021) ^[40]. After collecting data from all research participants, triangulation techniques were conducted. By comparing and validating data from various sources or techniques, triangulation seeks to improve the quality and reliability of data (Yogia, 2020) ^[48]. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the information collected by cross-referencing and validating the responses given by the informants (Gunawan, 2021) ^[14]. In the research conducted in Braja Kencana Village, East Lampung, qualitative methods were the main approach to approach informants and explore relevant information related to the research object. By involving various related parties as informants, the researcher succeeded in obtaining comprehensive and representative data. Interviews, observations, and documentation became effective techniques in data collection, allowing researchers to gain diverse and in-depth perspectives on the phenomena being studied. The importance of triangulation in this study cannot be ignored, because by comparing and verifying information from various sources, researchers can ensure the consistency and validity of the data obtained. This provides strength to the research findings and increases confidence in the results obtained. This study is expected to make a significant contribution to the growth and deeper knowledge of the research items being studied. In addition, by offering relevant insights and conclusions for future growth, this study will serve as a valuable reference for further research conducted in the same field.

Results and Discussion

Awareness Stage

The first stage of empowerment carried out by forest farmer groups is awareness raising (Labora, 2023) ^[22]. This awareness stage aims to make forest farmer group members aware that they have potential and abilities that can be developed (Safutra, 2022) ^[37]. Awareness of this potential is very important because it is the basis for members to actively participate in empowerment programs that will be implemented. Awareness is a crucial stage in the process of community empowerment which aims to increase individual and group awareness of their rights, potential, and responsibilities in social, economic, and political life (Mubaroq & Kurdianingtyas, 2022) ^[28]. This stage begins with an effort to deepen the community's understanding of

themselves, recognize their potential and abilities, and understand their surroundings, including the challenges and opportunities that exist. Awareness is not only focused on providing information, but also on building critical awareness, where the community begins to realize their role and position in the larger social structure (Pangestu & Andriyani, 2022) ^[33]. In this process, communities are encouraged to understand that they have the right and ability to change their own destiny, as well as the responsibility to contribute to building a more just and inclusive community. The awareness-raising process also involves increasing people's knowledge about various issues that affect their lives, such as human rights, public policies, and access to resources (Muarifuddin & Ragil, 2023) ^[27]. This knowledge is delivered through a variety of methods, including training, workshops, and group discussions, designed to improve community understanding in a comprehensive manner. With deeper knowledge, communities are encouraged to think critically about the social, economic, and political conditions they face. They are encouraged to question injustice, explore the roots of problems, and seek alternative solutions that are more equitable and sustainable. Through this process, communities become active agents of change, ready to defend their rights and take part in decision-making that impacts their daily lives, rather than just passive consumers of knowledge. The importance of awareness in community empowerment lies in its ability to change people's mindsets and attitudes (Sulaeman *et al.*, 2023) ^[41]. From a passive attitude and surrender to circumstances, to a proactive and empowered attitude. Awareness helps people to see that they have great untapped potential and that they have the power to change their own circumstances and their communities. Thus, awareness becomes a strong foundation for further empowerment processes, which include capacity building, access to resources, and active participation in development (Rofik *et al.*, 2023) ^[36]. The ultimate goal of awareness raising is to create a society that is not only self-reliant and empowered, but also able to overcome obstacles and take advantage of opportunities to advance well-being for all. Therefore, the awareness process seeks to provide communities with the skills, information, and mindsets necessary to adapt and prosper in a variety of circumstances (Ciptaningtyas *et al.*, 2023) ^[10].

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, the initial step taken by the forest farmer group in raising awareness of its members is through socialization. This socialization activity is held for all members of the forest farmer group, including forest farmers, craftsmen, and the surrounding community involved in forest management. This socialization not only provides information about the empowerment program that will be run, but also builds the spirit and motivation of members to actively participate. The awareness stage through this socialization is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding to members of the forest farmer group about the importance of the empowerment program and how they can contribute and benefit from the program. This is also a crucial initial step to ensure that all members feel involved and have a sense of ownership of the program being run. In the context of disaster mitigation in Way Kambas National Park, these socialization steps are very important. Disaster mitigation requires active participation from the entire community, including forest farmer groups, to improve preparedness and

response to disasters such as forest fires, floods, or wildlife attacks. Through socialization, forest farmer group members can be given knowledge about potential disasters that may occur in Way Kambas National Park, preventive measures that can be taken, and how they can coordinate with related parties in dealing with disasters. In addition, socialization can also be used to introduce the latest technology and methods in disaster mitigation, such as the use of early warning systems, effective firefighting techniques, and ways to protect themselves and their property during a disaster. With good understanding and active involvement, forest farmer groups and surrounding communities can become strategic partners in maintaining the sustainability of the Way Kambas National Park ecosystem while protecting their lives and livelihoods from the threat of disaster.

Capacity Building Phase

As an effort to create an empowered society that is able to accept the power that will be given, the stages of capacity building must be understood (Wati & Sudaryanti, 2021)^[45]. In this case, the capacity building stage includes human capacity building, organizational capacity building, and value system capacity building. The capacity building stage is one part of the community empowerment process. This is done so that the community that will be empowered is ready to be empowered. Realizing community empowerment requires the active involvement of its members, who in realizing it are encouraged and assisted by the presence of various empowerment actors. These players play an important role in providing the tools, encouragement, and direction needed by the community to fully participate in the empowerment process and maximize their potential and achieve their goals (Sulasih *et al.*, 2022)^[42]. In an effort to build organizational capacity for disaster mitigation and environmental conservation, various empowerment and collaboration programs between Task Forces (Satgas) such as the Forest Police Partner Community (MMP) and the Nature Care Community (MPA) which are fostered by Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) have made significant contributions in helping communities affected by disasters, especially related to conflicts with elephants entering agricultural land. Through the use of GPS and erus technology, they have succeeded in preventing elephants from entering community land. One of the communities in Braja Kencana Village is the Forest Farmer Group (KTH) which also plays a role in disaster mitigation and community empowerment efforts. Active community participation in disaster mitigation and environmental preservation efforts is also a major focus in achieving common goals.

In an effort to increase human capacity, various activities have been carried out such as education and socialization carried out in Braja Kencana Village by the Way Kambas National Park to the community or empowerment community. Routine disaster mitigation training is carried out by the TNWK through workshops conducted with the community by involving various community empowerment communities in Braja Kencana Village and the Buffer Village of Way Kambas National Park (TNWK). In handling disaster mitigation, there is cooperation between the TNWK and the community. One form of cooperation is the Operation carried out by the forest police together with the Forest Police Partner Community which is routinely carried out to create safe and comfortable conditions. There is one community empowerment group, namely the Forest

Farmer Group (KTH) which often provides education to the community not to approach the forest and invites the community to protect the forest. In addition, the community also has a dependency on the TNWK and is often given guidance so that this becomes a sustainable activity. In reducing the risk of disaster, the community actively participates in participating in activities organized by the TNWK in order to create a safe and comfortable environment.

Capacity building of value systems is one of the important aspects in the community empowerment process, which aims to form and strengthen community groups, such as community forestry partners and community-based forest farmer groups. This process is very important because it helps local communities organize and collaborate in disaster response activities, such as land restoration and forest protection. Various initiatives are implemented to increase community knowledge about disaster risks within the framework of value system capacity. An approach that can help us understand the condition of the community better is the analysis of threats and capacities. Disaster management education and training are also part of this capacity building, which aims to create awareness and deeper understanding of local potentials and resources. Thus, the community is expected to be able to deal with disasters effectively and independently. In addition, capacity building of value systems also involves collaboration between various actors, including the government, non-governmental organizations, and the community itself. Through this collaboration, communities can learn from the experiences and knowledge of others, and get the support needed to develop their capacity to deal with disasters. By forming solid, community-based groups, local communities can more easily adapt and collaborate in disaster mitigation efforts. Overall, the capacity building of value systems plays an important role in creating a more resilient society that is ready to face the challenges faced, especially in the context of disasters and environmental conservation. Through strengthening the values of collaboration and active participation, communities are expected to achieve common goals in maintaining environmental sustainability and reducing the risk of possible disasters.

Empowerment Stage

The empowerment stage is the stage where a target is given power, authority, authority, or opportunity. This provision must be adjusted to the quality and skills that have been possessed (Arif Syaifudin, 2022)^[6]. Empowerment can also be said to be an effort to make people empowered with the skills or potential they have (Wati & Sudaryanti, 2021)^[45]. According to Wrihatnolo and Dwijowijoto (2007) To help people achieve freedom and make changes in their lives, the empowerment stage can be seen as a stage that offers them strength and possibilities that are in line with their skills as a community (Lestari *et al.*, 2019)^[24]. This shows that empowerment is not just about providing assistance, but more about providing access and opportunities for communities to develop themselves and actively contribute to the development of their communities. A real example of this empowerment can be seen in the empowerment efforts in Braja Kencana Village, where facilitators provide land and high-protein grass seeds for animal feed. These facilities are provided to help local farmers increase their livestock production with better quality feed. Those who participate

actively and sustainably are given opportunities based on their strengths during the empowerment stage. In order for the community to make a greater contribution to the management and utilization of existing resources, in this case the community is given a greater role according to their capacity and abilities. Support from Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) to Braja Kencana Village is also part of this empowerment. TNWK forms Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) and Forest Police Partner Communities (MMP), and provides facilities in the form of land and several businesses that can be developed by KTH and MMP. With this support, it is hoped that the local community can increase their independence and ability to manage existing resources, so that positive and sustainable changes are created in their lives. This support not only helps in terms of material, but also builds the capacity of communities to become more independent and empowered in the long term.

This shows that empowerment is not just about providing assistance, but more about providing access and opportunities for communities to develop themselves and actively contribute to the development of their communities. A real example of this empowerment can be seen in the empowerment efforts in Braja Kencana Village, where facilitators provide land and high-protein grass seeds for animal feed. These facilities are provided to help local farmers increase their livestock production with better quality feed. Those who participate actively and sustainably are given opportunities based on their strengths during the empowerment stage. In order for the community to make a greater contribution to the management and utilization of existing resources, in this case the community is given a greater role according to their capacity and abilities. Support from Way Kambas National Park (TNWK) to Braja Kencana Village is also part of this empowerment. TNWK forms Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) and Forest Police Partner Communities (MMP), and provides facilities in the form of land and several businesses that can be developed by KTH and MMP. With this support, it is hoped that the local community can increase their independence and ability to manage existing resources, so that positive and sustainable changes are created in their lives. This support not only helps in terms of material, but also builds the capacity of communities to become more independent and empowered in the long term.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study highlights the importance of community empowerment in Braja Kencana Village in the context of disaster mitigation, especially related to forest fires and floods that often occur in the area. Community empowerment is considered a key approach to improving community resilience and preparedness in facing disasters. Through awareness, capacity building, and empowerment, communities are encouraged to actively participate in development and disaster mitigation. Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) and Community Forest Police Partners (MMP) play an important role in this effort, focusing on developing skills, knowledge, and access to resources. KTH Wana Jaya Kencana, for example, contributes to forest fire prevention by raising awareness among its members. In addition, MMP helps reduce human-elephant conflict and improves community welfare. Overall, community empowerment not only improves the capacity of individuals and groups to face disasters, but also contributes to environmental welfare and

sustainability. Practical recommendations from this study are expected to help improve community resilience and welfare in the Way Kambas National Park area.

Based on the findings of this study, there are several practical recommendations that can be implemented to strengthen community empowerment in disaster mitigation in Braja Kencana Village and its surrounding areas. First, increasing the capacity of Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) and Forest Police Partner Communities (MMP) through ongoing training that focuses more on natural resource management, disaster prevention, and forest fire control. This training can involve stakeholders such as local governments, academics, and environmental organizations. Second, strengthening cooperation between institutions is important, especially closer collaboration between communities, government, and the private sector. This aims to support the provision of disaster mitigation equipment and facilitate access to the information and technology needed. Third, better access to funding is needed to support community empowerment activities, both through government funds and partnerships with non-governmental organizations, which will help communities increase their capacity independently. Fourth, disaster education for the younger generation through integration into the school curriculum in the village can help create a generation that is more aware of disaster risks and better prepared to face emergency situations. Finally, the development of mitigation infrastructure, such as evacuation routes, early warning systems, and emergency response posts in strategic locations, is also important to support community preparedness. By implementing these recommendations, it is hoped that the resilience of the Braja Kencana Village community in facing disasters will increase, while creating a more prosperous and sustainable environment.

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