



INFO BRIEF

Model for Data Collection on Plantation Business Conflicts Based on Jurisdictional Approach

Introduction

The development and management of oil palm plantation business are often confronted with land conflicts. Among them are land cases between the company and the community who generally live surrounding the plantation operation area. This disrupts the community's social life, also becomes a sustainability problem for the plantation business itself.

The Province of Central Kalimantan, especially Districts of Seruyan and Kotawaringin Barat, is a place for palm oil companies to operate with a significant land area. In line with this, plantation business conflicts are also rampant. As a matter of fact, many past land conflicts have not been resolved and still ongoing.

For this reason, the two respective district government have long been determined to solve the issues. Various efforts have been made, from prevention efforts to conflict mediation between the parties. However, these efforts are not sufficient to face the contestation of plantation business land, which is very complex and structural in nature. The problem starts from the completeness of data that determines the work of a system. The unavailability of complete data and the fragmented plantation business conflict information system have resulted in vague conflict information. This contributes significantly to the difficulty of local government in resolving land issues.

Data is an important basis in handling plantation business conflicts. The absence of adequate data will hinder an efficient process of understanding typologies and the roots of conflicts. Thus, the solution to the conflict is not suitable, even rejected by the parties involved. So far, many conflicts have been recorded, but the completeness of the information still requires additional work. Therefore, local government should have a data and design system that can detect potential and risks of conflict early on. With the availability of sufficient information, local government is expected to be able to facilitate conflict resolution and provide appropriate access to justice.

The collaboration between the Government of the Districts of Seruyan and Kotawaringin Barat and Yayasan Inobu in promoting a data collection system and conflict resolution is carried out through a sustainable palm oil jurisdictional certification approach. This commitment is driven by multi-stakeholder engagement, including local governments, business actors, smallholders, indigenous/local communities, and NGOs. It is expected that the engagement of these parties can help provide complete information to finally find collective solutions to resolve conflicts over plantation business land.

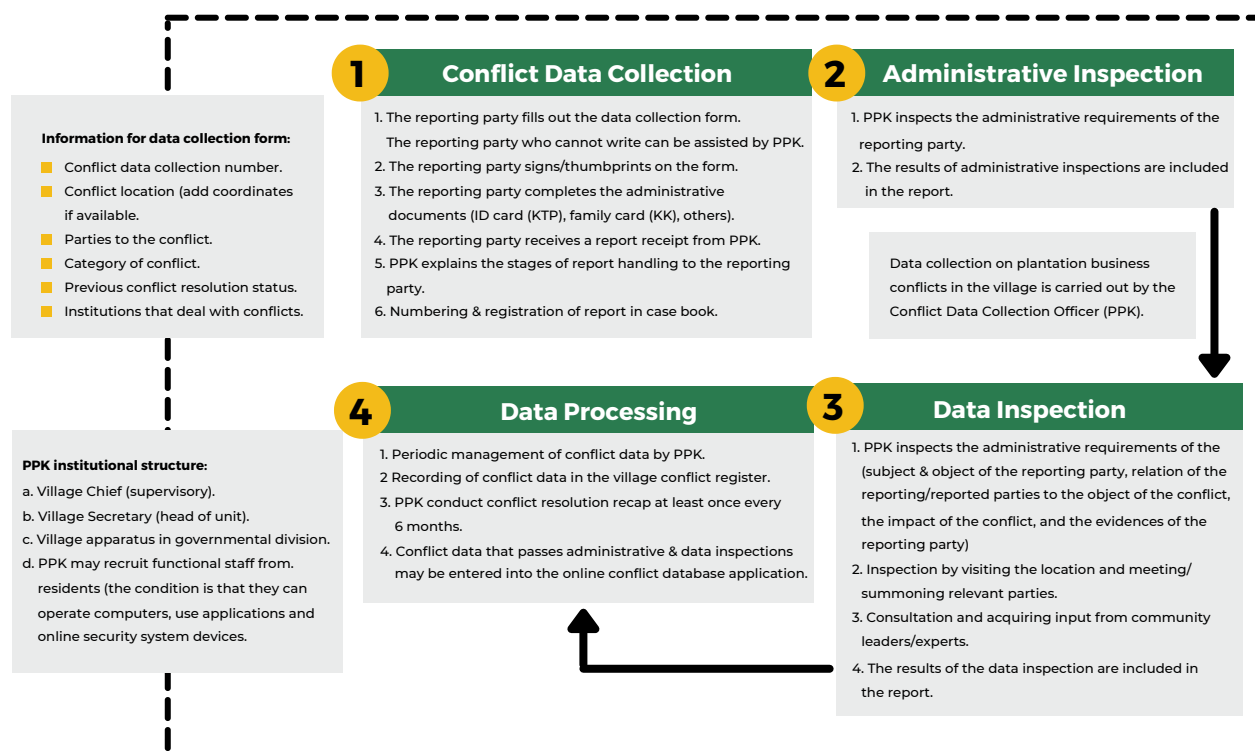
A number of strategies have been implemented, including preparing several regional level regulations, one of which is the regulation on data collection and plantation business conflict resolution. Furthermore, this regulation becomes a legal framework for jurisdictions in conducting an integrated conflict data collection in order to prepare a comprehensive database for the purposes of preventing, resolving, and recovering conflicts in an accurate, accountable, and equitable manner.

This conflict data collection will be carried out at the village level, which is technically carried out by the Conflict Data Collection and Complaint (PPK) team established based on the Decision Letter of the Village Chief. Villages are the main actors in conflict data collection due to these three aspects, namely: (1) facilitating access for parties to report complaints about their experiences in conflicts, (2) detecting early typologies of land conflicts that occur, and (3) enabling the village role to manage conflict data collection as part of the village strengthening framework mandated by the Law on Village (UU No. 6/2014).

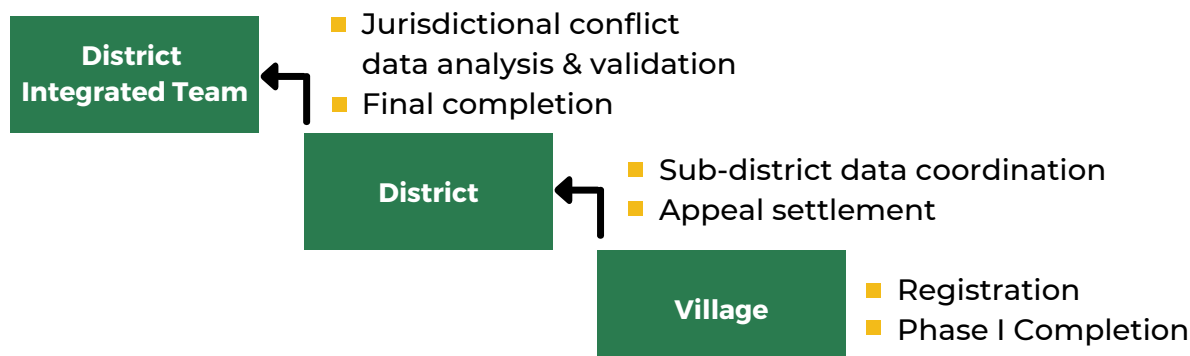
Even though data collection is carried out at the village level, it will be integrated in a system starting from the village, sub-district, to district. Technically, there will be a preparation for data collection and information platform. The agency in charge of agriculture and plantation affairs will play a role in developing the system, to facilitate local governments in the future to monitor the conflicts registration that will be connected from the village level and update their conflict resolution and prevention.

Conflict Data Collection Stages

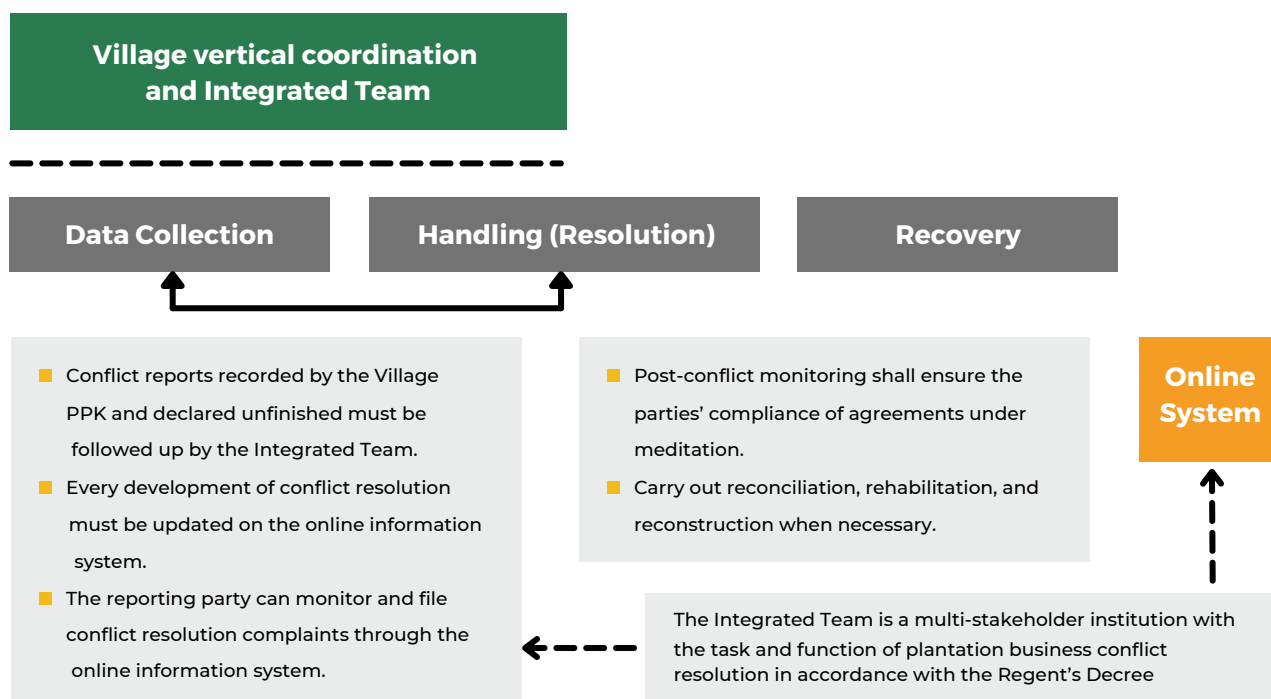
The stages of collecting and processing plantation business conflict data in the village can be explained as follows:



Coordination System



Coordination is carried out vertically by the village chief to the head of sub-district and district government (Bupati) through the Integrated Team for Plantation Business Conflict Resolution. The office in charge of agriculture and plantation affairs acts as a coordinator in the context of preventing and resolving conflicts in the village and monitoring the plantation conflict database system at the district level.



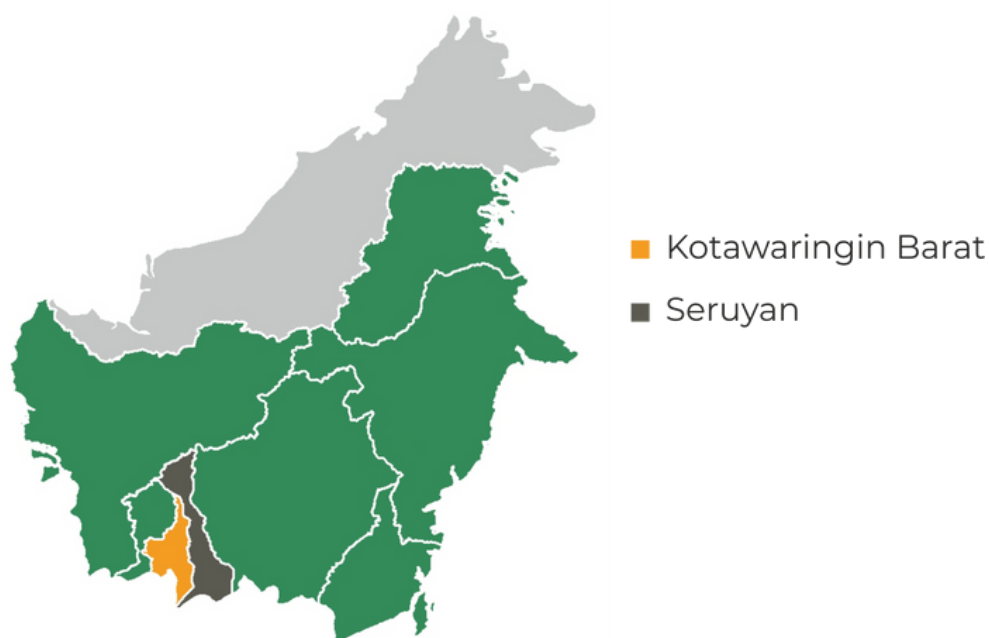
A portrait of the implemented conflict data collection

This data collection work plan will be implemented in several villages as a pilot project. In this regard, the collaboration between the district government and Yayasan Inobu has taken place between 2020-2021, collecting conflict data in 10 villages in Seruyan and 5 villages in Kotawaringin Barat. The plan is the data collection will take place in 20 villages in Seruyan and 20 villages in Kotawaringin Barat for the next 3 (three) years.

The activity began with training on the duties and functions of the PPK team as well as the concept of data collection and sustainable conflict management within the agenda of the palm oil jurisdictional approach. The training was targeted at the village PPK team with personnel from village officials and the community who were required to include women's representation. Subsequently, together with the local governments, Yayasan Inobu provided assistance and monitoring of conflict data collection which was carried out independently by the PPK unit in each village.

The villages recorded for both Seruyan and Kotawaringin Barat were transmigrant villages and local villages. The total conflicts that have been recorded in 15 villages are 43 conflicts. This conflict portrait is quite complex, acute, and has various typologies. The results of the data collection revealed that there are four parties that are often in conflict, namely: 1) community conflicts with oil palm companies, 2) communities with communities, 3) companies with companies, and 4) plantation business conflicts involving the government.

The frequency number indicates the most recorded conflict data are conflicts between community and companies. This means that the companies have enough influence concerning conflicts in the society. Even the stories told by the PPK team give the impression that in the future, at the site level, there is a potential for large oil palm plantation business conflicts if not anticipated early on. The likeliest need is preventive action to mitigate the risk of conflict. The role of the PPK team is important in data collection and conflict management. It is important to coordinate and monitor villages through the PPK team in coordination with the local governments. Villages must be encouraged to really take a role in protecting, registering, and preventing their communities from conflict. This includes ensuring information on the presence of the PPK team and their duties to the community so that participation in updating plantation business conflicts continues to be encouraged.



The conflicts that are usually depicted are land-related conflicts, followed by conflicts between community partnerships and companies. The distribution of conflict areas includes Production Forest (HP), Protected Forest (HL), Conservation Production Forest (HPK), Land Use Area (APL), Green Open Space (RTH) and Village Cash Land (TKD). As far as field assistance is concerned, the villages are quite enthusiastic about collecting data.

Most of these conflicts have been reported to villages previously but have not yet received a final resolution. Data collection helps village government identify conflicts that occur in order to encourage clarity on the resolution status. It is expected that by preparing an organized database on plantation business conflicts, it can support efforts to prevent, resolve, and recover conflicts in a fast and accurate manner.

