

Lubuk Larangan, Local Wisdom That Maintains High Conservation Value

by: Firza Radwitami

“A river doesn’t just carry water, it carries life”, says an Indian writer, Amit Kalantri.

The river does provide many benefits for those who live around it. Mothers, fathers, children, relatives living on the banks of the river use the water as a source of life; eat, bathe, and fulfill daily needs.

But what happens if the river is not properly maintained? The fish that live in it are taken massively, chemical fertilizers for the trees that grow on the banks are polluting the river.

There is one effort made by a number of local communities in Indonesia, to maintain the cleanliness of the river, through the protected zone method called Lubuk Larangan.

Lubuk Larangan is an innovation to restore river ecosystems. Through this method, the community can improve the quality of the environment, because the river will not only be clean, but the fish population will also increase by minimizing the exploitation of fish.

Then how is the Lubuk Larangan method applied?

Lubuk Larangan is an area/place/location in the river that has been agreed by the community and customary institutions not to fish for a certain period.

When the time comes, local people will hold a big harvest to take fish on a large scale, accompanied by the implementation of rituals that are trusted by the local community.

However, during harvest time, people are not allowed to take fish using dangerous tools, nor are they allowed to take small fish, so that they can still grow.

Later, after the big harvest is done, the community will again close the place for a predetermined time.

It is unique. With the methods applied by the local community, the environment is preserved.

In short, if Lubuk Larangan is his son, then High Conservation Values and local wisdom are his parents.

Lubuk Larangan pointed out that maintaining High Conservation Values should be integrated with local wisdom, so that in conserving rivers, there is inclusiveness from local people who feel involved.

With the involvement and approval of all parties, local regulations will emerge that can be followed by all elements of the community in the area, so that the protected zone method is not only discourse but can be implemented perfectly.

This method is closely related to sustainability principles and standards. Because the community becomes aware of the importance of being involved in environmental restoration in their own area, and the hope is also very important to make this an inherent norm in the community, as a boundary that should not be violated.