

# Study of problems in utilizing the functions of Kasinan protected forest between local residents and "Sadar Alas" community groups

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**Abstract.** Understanding disputing styles is very important for solving a problem. The purpose of this research is to examine descriptively the problems in the Kasinan protected forest and to identify the conflicting styles of each party so that an appropriate resolution of the problems can be developed. This research was conducted in the protected forest of Kasinan, precisely in Pesanggrahan Village, Batu City. Data collection was carried out qualitatively, namely through interviews, observation, and documentation. The analysis used adapts the Disputing Style Analysis (AGATA). The results of the research show that the problems in the Kasinan protected forest stem from the use of the forest for tourism by relying on water sources from the Kasinan protected forest. The impact was a decrease in the discharge of water flowing into the rice fields and residents' homes, resulting in protests from residents. Actors involved in the problem include residents of Pesanggrahan village, HIPPA-HIPPAM, Pesanggrahan Village Government, Sadar Alas community, Perhutani KPH Malang, BKPH Pujon, and Walhi. Each party has various problems, including environmental beauty, reducing water discharge, and tourism interests. Communities are the most disadvantaged because they feel the impact directly. Each side has a different style of conflict. However, especially for residents of the Sadar Alas community, they have a competitive dispute style. So, in an accommodation style, the village government formed a team of Kasinan Forest Utilization Problem Resolution Facilities and held meetings including villagers, HIPPA-HIPPAM, Alas Awareness Community, Perhutani, and the Mayor of Batu City to negotiate and facilitate the proposal for zoning based on local policies so that the environment is beautiful. and the tour continues. So support from parties who have full authority, such as the Mayor of Batu City, is needed in order to realize a resolution to the conflict.

**Keywords:** Conflict Analysis, Utilization of Protected Forests, Kasinan Protected Forest

## 1. Introduction

The interests of economic improvement and environmental beauty are two things that cannot be separated in a country. Where the increase in people's welfare must be carried out, but on the other hand, the beauty of the forest must also be maintained so that it does not damage the main function of the forest. Forests are always an interesting topic of discussion every year, considering that the benefits of natural resources produced by forests are so abundant. Some economists categorize forests as renewable resources, but forests have limited regeneration and assimilation power, so as long as exploitation or demand for services is below the limit for regeneration or assimilation, forest resources can be used sustainably (Soemarwoto, 2001; Hidayat et al., 2011).

A protected forest is an area that provides protection for its area to prevent flooding, erosion, and sedimentation and protect the hydrological function of the soil so that the availability of soil nutrients, surface water, and groundwater is maintained (Hidayat et al., 2011). The Kasinan protected forest, located in Pesanggrahan Village, Batu District, Batu City, is the only source used by residents for household needs, including drinking water, bathing, rice fields, and livestock. Based on the administrative area of the Forest Management Unit (KPH), Malang is in plot 86B. On the right and left, there are steep cliffs with a slope of approximately 45 degrees to 75 degrees.

The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) for Batu City said that the protected forest area in Batu District reached 387 hectares. Machrus Umar, one of the community leaders in Pesanggrahan Village, explained that Kasinan is a gaping ravine behind the hamlet as a trace of Gunung Kawi floods in the past when Gunung Kawi was still active, and now it is a geohydro area (source area) whose water veins creep up to Gunung Kawi. Residents say that the forest is prone to disasters. In 2019, a tour named Alaska (Alas Kasinan) was established by the Sadar Alas group in the Kasinan protected forest. Alaska tourism is a tour in the form of a playground that provides a family gathering place in the form of a bamboo gazebo with natural views, and various artificial ponds are built, one of which is a fishpond. However, to accommodate the various pools, Alaska tourism relies on water sources that flow to the village of Pesanggrahan.

The Alas Sadar Group is a group of villagers who have concern for the beauty of the Kasinan protected forest. The activity of the Sadar Alas group is to carry out continuous planting in the Kasinan protected forest. Until finally, investors came who saw that the Kasinan protected forest had tourism potential and were willing to finance tourism development. Residents of the village of Pesanggrahan considered that there were irregularities in the development of the tour because Alaska's founder had pocketed a permit from Perhutani as contained in Cooperation Agreement (PKS) No. 043.7/PKS-WST/MLG/DRIVE-JATIM/2019. Machrus Umar, as a community leader and chairman of the Drinking Water Users Association (HIPPAM) in Pesanggrahan village, has started to receive complaints from residents who complain that the water debit for household needs is starting to decrease. These complaints were increasing over time, so representatives from HIPPAM and residents took the initiative to monitor the Alaska tourism development site. After monitoring, the residents considered not only the reduction in water discharge but also the destruction of protected forests. In the end, HIPPAM reported to the Village Head regarding the reduction in water discharge and forest damage that had occurred since the establishment of Alaska tourism. Feeling that they could not find a solution to the destruction of the forest that had been planted and guarded by the residents of Pesanggrahan Village, the residents took action against and objected to the Alaska tour, and the Kasinan People's Joint Movement (GEBRAK) was born.

This conflict ultimately attracted the attention of several environmental communities, including the Forum for the Environment (Walhi) and the Pesanggrahan community. They expressed several objections to the construction, including objecting that Alaska Tourism had built a hall with iron and concrete stands adjacent to the source. Second, build a pool of concrete. Third, by constructing building facilities from cutting protected bamboo materials, residents consider that this will result in other people doing the same thing in the future. Because bamboo compaction is done by Pesanggrahan residents. Fourth, cut the Trengguli wood planted by residents. Fifth, eradicating biological wealth (vines) with herbicides or round-ups using machines Sixth, changing the landscape of the water environment indicates disturbing the habitat of existing water sources. Seventh, compaction of the source area, which used to be like a swamp.

Referring to the Spatial Plan for Batu City, Article 8 describes the preservation of protected areas to strengthen the role of Batu City as a support for the upstream of the Brantas River and the environmental sustainability of Batu City as a beautiful, safe, and comfortable mountainous region. Then carry out soil and water conservation in protected areas, limit activities in local protected areas along rivers only for tourism purposes that do not change the protected function, and save the integrity of potential biodiversity, both the physical potential of the area (habitat), the potential of life resources, and the diversity of its genetic resources (Anonymous, 2011).

## 2. Method

### 2.1. Time and Location

This research was conducted in February–May 2022 in Pesanggrahan Village, Batu District, Batu City, East Java. In that place, there is a protected forest, which the residents named the Kasinan protected forest, and a nature tour of Alas Kasinan (Alaska) has been established. Until now, the Alaska Tour, which stands right in the Kasinan protected forest, has been closed for an undetermined period by order of the Mayor of Batu, with the condition of the tour being partially damaged and the source of flowing water for the tour being closed.

### 2.2. Data Collection

In qualitative research, the researcher may choose three of several data collection techniques. Some of the data collection techniques are: (1) Participatory observation; (2) In-depth interviews; (3) Life history; (4) Document analysis; (5) Researchers' diaries (impressions when collecting data); and (6) media content analysis (Bungin, 2011). Of the many choices in qualitative research, the authors used three techniques in this study: participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis. Data collection was carried out until the data was saturated, i.e., the informant's answers were repeated or the same as the previous informants. Determination of informants in this study using a purposive sampling method. That is, informants were selected based on considerations and research objectives (Soekanto, 1983). Arikunto explained that purposive sampling is a data collection technique used by researchers if they have certain considerations in data collection (Syafi'i, 2005).

In conducting data validity, triangulation of sources and techniques will be used, namely checking data with other data sources and interview data with the results of observations and documentation (Sugiyono, 2010). Researchers combined all research results from interviews, observation, and documentation. In other words, triangulation is testing the validity of research results, methods, theories, and data sources (Bungin, 2007). The data to be collected consists of the history of residents' problems with the Sadar Alas community, the perceptions of various informants, including villagers, including members of the HIPPA-HIPPAM, and the Sadar Alas community, as well as supporting informants to further enrich the data, such as staff from Pesanggrahan village, Perhutani KPH Malang, and Walhi, as well as the conflict actors and dispute styles of the parties.

### 2.3. Research Metode

The method used is qualitative. Qualitative methods are research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior (Moleong, 2004). Meanwhile, Arikunto explained that qualitative research is data that is described through words or sentences separated by category to obtain conclusions (Arikunto, 2010). Strauss stated more clearly that what is meant by the term qualitative approach is a type of research that produces findings that are not obtained by means of statistical procedures or other quantification tools; this can lead to research on a person's life, history, behavior, or international relations (Ahmadi, 2014).

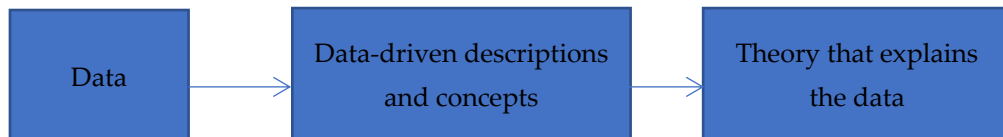


Figure 1. Qualitative approach (Hadi, 2019).

The picture above explains that the main step in qualitative research is data. This means that the first step is to go directly to the field. In the second column, it explains that the researcher outlines the description and builds a concept based on the data. The meaning is a description that is based on the reality on the ground. Then, in the third column, the final step of the qualitative research stage is building a theory based on data. Qualitative research does not prove whether the theory built elsewhere is proven in the field where the researcher conducts the research. What researchers do in a qualitative approach is build a theory based on the data on which they conduct research. The stages above can be summarized by the description, explanation, and interpretation steps (Hadi, 2019).

### 2.4. Data Analysis

Dispute Style Analysis (AGATA) is used to map the attitudes of the actors, as adopted from Pasya & Sirait (2011). Gamine et al. (2014) and Palmolina & Fauziyah (2020) explain that this analysis is used to determine the attitude or position of a person or party, both individuals and groups or even organizations, in dealing with disputes. The responses of the parties in the conflict were tabulated qualitatively, and then the conflict resolution style model was mapped as shown in Figure 2.

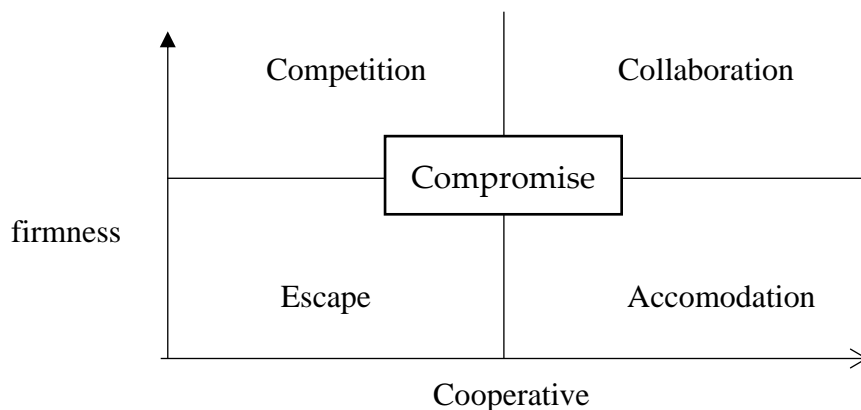


Figure 2. Dispute Style Analysis (AGATA) model of Pasya & Sirait (2011).

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. History of Conflict over the Kasinan Protected Forest

Based on the data that the author has collected while working in the field, it is clear that the conflict occurred in 2019. This started with the idea of the Sadar Alas community when they carried out a tree planting action in the Kasinan protected forest. However, not only the Sadar Alas community did the planting, but all village residents (including HIPPA-HIPPAM members) also participated in planting the trees. As time went on, Sadar Alas and the residents made a temporary resting place at the forest site in the form of a gazebo to rest while planting. Gradually, the resting place began to be decorated with ornamental plants to beautify the area.

Since the offer of tourism development by investors, some residents have agreed. The majority who agreed were the Sadar Alas community, but there was no conflict yet because in the tourism development plan, the village elders had asked permission from the village elders. Then the Sadar Alas community made a CV to obtain permission from Perhutani in the form of a Cooperation Agreement (PKS) with Number: 043.7/PKS-WST/MLG/DRIVE-JATIM/2019. After the development of Alaska tourism was carried out, reports began to appear from residents that the water discharge flowing to their homes had decreased, and irrigation for agriculture was also not as smooth as before. There was even a conflict between farmers in the village of Pesanggrahan due to a struggle over water for irrigating the fields. Residents suspect that all the water problems that occur are due to the development of Alaska tourism. After the residents carried out monitoring at the construction site, it turned out that they saw not only the diversion of the water flow but also the logging of forests, so they feared it would damage the function of the protected forest. So knowing this, the residents immediately complained to the village through the HIPPA-HIPPAM communication forum by sending a letter to the Pesanggrahan Village Head to provide solutions to the problems that occurred.



Figure 3. The pond built by the Sadar Alas community for Alaska tourism.

Only one day after HIPPAM residents sent a letter to the Village, the Village Government immediately sent a letter to the Sadar Alas community to temporarily stop tourism development activities. In addition to sending letters, the Village Government also followed up on consultations with BKPH Pujon. With the conflict escalating, the Pesanggrahan Village Head formed the Kasinan Forest Utilization Facility Facility Team with the Village Head's decision Number: 141/65/KEP422.310.7/2020.

On June 10, Perhutani Malang directly inspected the Alaska tourism development site, accompanied by several Pesanggrahan Village Government officials, members of the Facility Team, members of HIPPA-HIPPAM, and the Alas Kasinan Awareness community. Furthermore, a conciliation meeting was held at the Pesanggrahan Village Hall. Then on July 15, the two conflicting groups were invited by the Village Facilities Team to sign the minutes of the conciliation meeting, but the Alas conscious community asked for 1x24 hours to discuss with members of the Alas Awareness Group, even though in reality, until July 16, the Alas Awareness Group had not yet signed the minutes. Then the facility team sent a letter to Perhutani requesting a written response regarding the results of the field review to resolve the ongoing conflict.

After several days and having not received a response from Perhutani KPH Malang, on July 28, 2020, the Village Government, through the Facilitation Team, again sent a letter to Perum Perhutani KPH Malang, requesting a written answer to provide information to both parties to the conflict. The next day, July 29, 2020, HIPPA-HIPPAM members



sent a letter to the Pesanggrahan Village Head and urged the Pesanggrahan Village Government to stop Alaska tourism development activities. This is since the community is aware that the base is continuing development activities.



Figure 4. Forms of rejection and destruction by villagers

Because it was felt that the conflict was getting difficult to control, the Pesanggrahan Village Government conducted consultations and asked the Regional Secretary of Batu City to carry out a moratorium regarding Alaska tourism permits at the Regional Government level due to ongoing problems. In this case, the Regional Secretary of Batu City will gather the heads of related offices so that later they can help resolve the problems that occur.

On the evening of July 29, the Head of Pesanggrahan Village was invited by HIPPA-HIPPAM members to discuss the progress of the activities of the Facility Team formed by the Village Government during the conflict. So the next day, the Village Head and members of the facility team met with the Sadar Alas community to submit a request for an informal meeting in the evening. The meeting was attended by the Head of Pesanggrahan Village, the facility team, and representatives from the Alas Kasinan Awareness Community. In this case, the Village Head asked for a copy of the Cooperation Agreement (PKS) between the Alas Awareness Community and Perum Perhutani KPH Malang to be reviewed together. However, the village head's request was rejected by the Awareness community, which asked the village head to request a copy at Perum Perhutani KPH Malang. However, Perhutani also refused to show the contents of the Cooperation Agreement. On August 2, 2020, the Batu City Government, which was attended by the mayor of Batu, the Regional Secretary of Batu City, and the related OPD, inspected the Alaska tourism field accompanied by the Head of Pesanggrahan Village and the facility team. Dewanti, as the Mayor of Batu, conveyed the need for further review from related agencies and the need for follow-up meetings regarding the resolution of the problems that occurred.

In the end, the conflicting parties reported each other to the Batu Resort Police, starting with the Sadar Alas reporting residents for destroying tourism during construction, while the residents reported Sadar Alas for destroying the Kasinan forest because it was used as a tourist location. In this case, the residents did indeed destroy the Alaska tour. This was done when the emotions of the residents overflowed because they knew that the parties were aware that Alas was still carrying out construction secretly, even though the village had been given an appeal to temporarily stop development activities.

Then the Batu City Government invited the Pesanggrahan Village Government, in this case represented by the Head of Pesanggrahan Village and the Heads of Wunucari, West Srebet, East Srebet, and Krajan Hamlets, Pesanggrahan Village Community Leaders, and representatives of the Pesanggrahan Village HIPPA-HIPAM group, to be in the audience. However, they have not found a solution that is able to resolve the conflict, so to prevent unwanted things from happening, the Batu City Forkopimda, together with the Batu City Government OPD and the Pesanggrahan Village Government, carried out reforestation activities in the Kasinan Forest on September 11, 2020. But before reforestation was carried out by the Government, residents first carried out reforestation in the Kasinan protected forest on August 30, 2020. Until finally, the residents of Pesanggrahan Village, together with environmental activists, staged a demonstration at Among Tani City Hall to demand the closure of the tour and the restoration of the function of the Kasinan protected forest.

The conflict that occurs in the Kasinan protected forest is a type of horizontal conflict, namely conflict that occurs between the community and the community itself. With the open conflict type, namely situations where social conflicts have surfaced that are deeply rooted and very real, requiring various actions to address the root causes and their various effects (Susan, 2019). In principle, the conflict that occurred in the Kasinan protected forest involved many agencies.



Figure 5. Concrete buildings built by the Sadar Alas community at the source site (Left). Villagers point to a source that is no longer flowing (Right).

Based on observations, there are concrete buildings in the source area, and residents are concerned that these buildings will have an impact on the quality of the source. In Batu City, RTRW Perda, it has also been mentioned that it is prohibited to construct concrete or permanent buildings.

Based on the explanation from residents, the building in Figure 5 is half standing but was demolished again by Sadar Alas since there was a commotion and the residents planted plants during reforestation on August 30, 2020. Right next to the building is a spring. Alaska tourism development is considered contrary to the Batu City RTRW Regional Regulation. Article 67 Number (3), letter b, states that water catchment areas are not allowed to be developed as built-up areas. Number 3, letter h, states protection around springs for activities that cause the transfer of protection functions and cause damage to the quality of water sources. Number 3 (letter k) states limiting and not using land directly for buildings that are not related to spring conservation. Then in Number (5), letter d confirms that the area with a radius of 15 meters from the spring must be free of buildings except for water distribution buildings.

However, Article 67, Number 3, Letter I state that apart from being a source of drinking water and irrigation, water sources are also used for tourism, whose designation is permitted as long as it does not reduce the quality of the existing water system. For the use of water sources for recreation and swimming, it is necessary to make a separate pond. This means that tourism in the Kasinan protected forest is still very much permitted if it complies with local regulations.

### 3.2. Dispute Styles and Conflict Resolution in the Kasinan Protected Forest

Mapping conflicting styles will make it easier to resolve because knowing the attitudes and styles of conflict will make it easier to respond. However, of the five disputing styles, there are two axes as the basis for Agata Thomas & Kilmann (1974) in Wirawan (2016) explaining cooperation (cooperativeness) on the horizontal axis and assertiveness (assertiveness) on the vertical axis. What is meant by cooperation is people's efforts to satisfy others when facing conflict. On the other hand, assertiveness refers to people's efforts to satisfy themselves when faced with conflict. Pasya & Sirait (2011) make it clear what is meant by assertiveness (vertical) and cooperation (horizontal): if the axis goes higher, it will be characterized by an aggressive, selfish attitude, suppressing other parties, but if it gets lower, the lower selfishness/groups prefer to avoid discussion, do not want to build commitments, and behave in an unclear manner. Whereas in cooperation, if it is higher (towards the horizontal), then it is marked by a mutually caring attitude towards each party's interests; good communication is established, mutually satisfying other parties.

Provide any citations to support the findings and analysis. In Figure 2, The style of competition is shown by residents, Hippa-Hippam, and the Sadar Alas community. In principle, among the three parties above, they remain firm in their stance. The Alas Sadar Community still wants to carry out development even though the Village Government has given an appeal to temporarily stop construction, while residents and Hippa-Hippam oppose this activity on the pretext of preserving the forest, which leads to the destruction of tourist sites. Then the avoidance style was shown by Perhutani because, in principle, Perhutani prefers to be silent when a conflict occurs. Avoids discussion of problems and is not concerned with self-interest. This is supported by Perhutani's statement when interviewed by the author, explaining that what has been done is correct and in accordance with applicable law. However, if you look at the reality in the field, the writer finds different facts. Not only were there demonstrations and arguments, but there was even vandalism by residents at tourist sites that led to security forces securing them.

Finally, the accommodation style was shown by the Pesanggrahan Village Government because, in principle, the Village Government has bridged the problem by making various efforts to reconcile and creating a special team to solve

problems that occur in the Kasinan protected forest. Pasya & Sirait (2011) explain that if the style of dispute (at least one of the parties) is agitation or attack, then it can be categorized as a destructive style. In this situation, two things can be done. First, the parties are offered the opportunity to resolve their disputes through formal legal channels (litigation). Second, the mediator takes the initiative to de-escalate (reduce) the tension of the dispute through shuttle diplomacy and partial diplomacy with each party, inviting persuasive parties to abandon destructive agitational styles until they reach a condition where their style of dispute changes to other styles. However, if the style of dispute is competitive and constructive, then the parties may be offered the opportunity to pursue it through a mediation or arbitration process.

If the disputing style shows a collaborative style, then handling settlement through negotiation (negotiation) can be offered. The collaboration style has an important characteristic: apart from wanting to fight for its interests, the party also understands and accepts the urgency of the opposing party's interests. If you find that the style of dispute is accommodation, then there are two forms of dispute resolution that can be offered, namely mediation or facilitation. If a compromise dispute style is found, then the form of settlement handling that can be offered is facilitation. The hallmark of this style is that the parties find a middle ground without further questioning who wins or who loses. As an example of land disputes, land is divided equally without looking at who should have the right to get a larger or smaller share. Finally, the avoidance style is considered poor in social capital or multi-stakeholder capital. In this style, the party has no concern for his own interests or the interests of other parties. Apathy is a characteristic of those who have this style, according to Pasya & Sirait (2011).

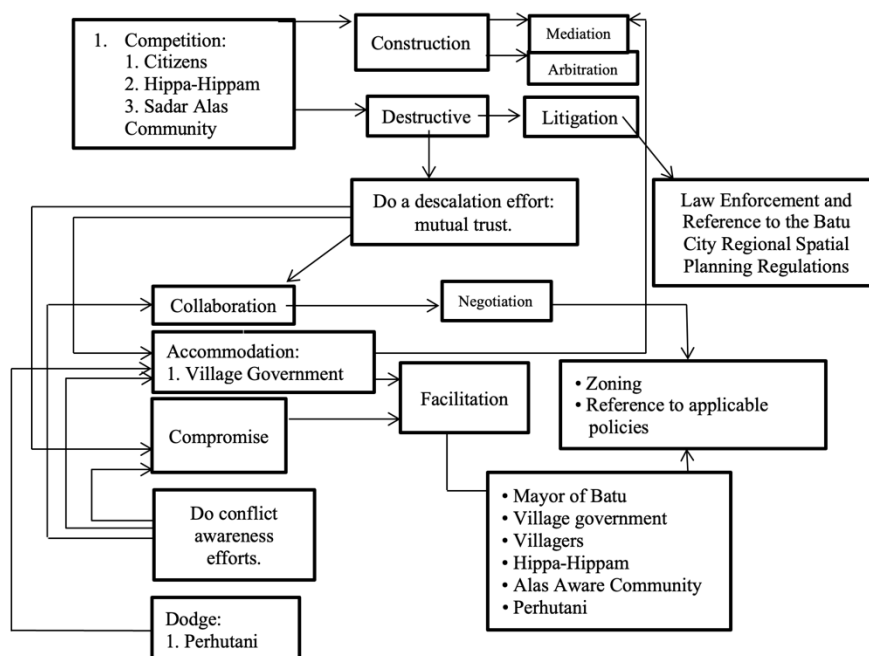


Figure 7. Results of a problem study in the Kasinan protected forest between residents and the Sadar Alas community. Adopted from Pasya & Sirait (2011).

In this case, the mayor of Batu, Dewanti, has been involved, and the residents staged a demonstration towards Batu City Hall. So here, Dewanti has an important position in efforts to resolve the conflict. Based on Figure 7, there are two things that can be done to reduce the problems that occur in the Kasinan protected forest, namely negotiation and facilitation. Here's the explanation:

1. Negotiation.

Because the conflict that occurred in the Kasinan protected forest has become a destructive conflict, So the Village government, as an accommodating party, can make efforts to de-escalate by growing confidence in each conflicting party. As stated, (Hadi 2010), it raises awareness among all disputing actors that disputes are not a battle to be won but to be resolved. If not, it will have a negative impact in the future. Because one day there will be a similar conflict. If the parties to the conflict have shown a collaborative attitude, then the negotiation process can be carried out without involving many parties and offer an offer in the form of a tourism model, zoning between tourism and protected forests, while considering the applicable policies.

## 2. Facilitate.

The initial stage of facilitation is the same as negotiation; namely, when the conflict has led to destructive conflict, the Village Government must build confidence so that the conflicting parties show an accommodative or compromising attitude. However, the Village Party must also coordinate with Perhutani, the forest management authority in the Batu Region, to resolve the conflict. If the parties to the conflict have shown accommodative or compromising attitudes, the Village Government, accompanied by Perhutani, can hold a joint meeting including the Mayor of Batu City, the Village Government, Perhutani, villagers, Hippa-Hippam, and the Alas Aware Community. The Mayor of Batu City, as the party that has full authority over Batu City, is expected to be able to help solve the problem. With the presence of all parties, it is hoped that all will know and express opinions until they agree on the results that have been discussed together. Thomas & Kilmann (1974), in Wirawan (2016), explain that the characteristics of the compromise style are to provide a solution in the form of another alternative that partially fulfills the wishes of each party, and both parties only partially fulfill their desires.

## 4. Conclusion

The problems that occur in the Kasinan protected forest stem from the utilization of the protected forest to be used as Alas Kasinan (Alaska) tourism in the form of a vehicle for playing by relying on water sources from the Kasinan protected forest, resulting in a decrease in the flow of water flowing into farmers' fields and to residents' homes. This problem led to protests by residents against the Village Government. The actors involved in the problem included residents of Pesanggrahan village, HIPPA-HIPPAM, the Pesanggrahan Village Government, the Sadar Alas community, Perhutani KPH Malang, and BKPH Pujon, which attracted Walhi's attention. Each party questioned various issues, including environmental beauty, reducing water discharge, and the interests of Alaska tourism development. The farming community is the party that suffers the most because they feel the impact significantly, so they have to take turns with other farmers to irrigate the fields. Meanwhile, the Sadar Alas community has obtained a permit in the form of a Cooperation Agreement (PKS) from Perhutani KPH Malang.

Each side has a different style of conflict. However, especially for residents of the Sadar Alas community, they have a competitive dispute style. With its accommodation style, the Village government formed a problem-solving body, namely the Kasinan Forest Utilization Problem Resolution Facility team with the Village Head's decision Number: 141/65/KEP422.310.7/2020, and held meetings including villagers, HIPPA-HIPPAM, Alas Awareness Community, Perhutani, and Mayor Batu. Mayor Batu then conducted negotiations and facilitation based on the Pasya and Sirait (2011) model to propose zoning based on local policies so that the beauty of the environment with Alaska tourism continues. So in this case, support from parties who have full authority, such as the Mayor of Batu City, is needed so that conflict resolution is realized.

## Acknowledgement

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