

# Integrity for the Enforcement in Forestry Perspective

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## Abstract

The Forestry Department is one of the organizations that preserve national treasure assets consistently. As civil servants and staff of the Forestry Department organization, they must uphold the nature of trust, transparency, and responsibility and serve the public interest, which is the essence of the terms integrity and ethics. In other words, integrity and ethics in work and organization is not just an individual's self-involvement to provide for his own needs but rather involves good actions done at work and all of this is closely related to religious teachings and responsibility as a human being. The erosion of the value of integrity among civil servants in the Forestry Department will result in administrative errors and misconduct in the organization. Therefore, the practice and understanding of integrity and ethics must be implemented. The government has already paid serious attention to the problem of integrity and ethics among civil servants by launching Corruption Risk Management to develop the country in a balanced way. Realizing the importance of integrity as the core of quality staff development, this study discusses integrity in law enforcement from the perspective of the Forestry Department. In addition, this article describes the issues and challenges faced by the Forestry Department related to the lack of research on the implications of forestry law enforcement, especially shared values, makes it difficult for policy makers to determine conservation goals, methods and standards that are suitable for local acceptance. There is also a proposal to improvise on the integrity of the Forestry department by identifying the policy and revising the working procedures of area applications and creating an open tender system so that the selection of loggers is more transparent. Ultimately, it can improve the integrity of law enforcement from the perspective of the Forestry Department so that all employees and civil servants in an organization can practice it in order to improve the quality of superior and effective services.

*Keywords: Integrity; workplace; policies related; Forestry Perspective*

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## ■ 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Forestry Department initiatives to conserve universally valuable heritage resources have long been practiced around the world with the development of several conservation approaches such as National Parks, Biosphere Sites, World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Sites and others. However, each of these approaches only focuses specifically on certain aspects such as forest reserve conservation, ecosystem balance, ecological maintenance and cultural sites and biodiversity conservation (Bunny et al., 2022). This is important in order to prevent the abuse of forestry from being explored after the enforcement is done. The forestry department has limited authority to manage the government forest order, because the Department Land and Mines law have full authority over it. The forestry department only has the authority to manage certain operational orders such as inventory and logging (Marzuki et al., 2022).

Logging management plans are subject to rules that are not as strict as in gazetted production forests such as no minimum diameter limit for felling. More susceptible to forest conversion to other land uses such as housing, agriculture, infrastructure development because it does not need to go through the degazetting process (Ramli et al., 2022). A call for the state government to gazette more forested areas under forestry or conservation laws to provide stricter protection from heavy damage or forest alteration. Forests are usually gazetted for three (3) purposes, namely production forests for sustainable logging and plantations, protection forests or known for the conservation of forests, ecosystems and wildlife (Marzuki et al., 2022). Apart from conservation activities plays a role in various functions such as integrating games, increasing the development of ecotourism, spreading scientific education and improving the standard of living of the local community (Hoops, 2022). Public education was introduced with the aim of increasing awareness, knowledge and understanding of the geopark concept as well as developing community capacity towards sustainable living. The geopark approach in Langkawi tries to introduce a management system that is multi-stakeholder collaboration taking into account the involvement of local communities, private bodies up to the implementing agency to ensure the development of the geopark takes place holistically (Lippe et al., 2022).

This management system involves combining elements such as work relationships, administrative structures, functions, stakeholder roles, practices and various activities that further form integrated enforcement (Gezik et al., 2022). Enforcement management is seen to be able to improve the status of geopark entities that strive to champion regional development policies from the perspective of sustainable development and heritage conservation (Ahammad et al., 2023). This enforcement system is still in its early stages and all stakeholders need to understand and appreciate the concept of geoparks, sustainable development, and transition management as a whole. Therefore, this article describes integrity for enforcement in the perspective of forestry so as not to be misused.

## ■ 2.0 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Issues and challenges in the integrity of forestry law enforcement can be seen through the sustainable heritage resource management system which is found to be lacking in transparency especially in the implementation and monitoring process (Marzuki et al., 2022). The encroachment of the edge of the forest that has been turned into an agricultural area shows that the forestry legislation is not carried out properly. The need to create an integrated management system with the enforcement of forestry laws is very important to ensure the sustainability and continuity of resources for future generations. The lack of research on the implications of forestry law enforcement, especially shared values, makes it difficult for policy makers to determine conservation goals, methods and standards that are suitable for local acceptance. Benchmarks made based on the scale of enforcement of forestry legislation are likely to be inconsistent with local aspirations and information about shared values is important as a source of reference for a more relevant scale of heritage conservation (Hu et al., 2022). In addition, without information about shared values, it is difficult to ensure the alignment of the integrity of the department or local community agencies with the values in implementing the enforcement of forestry legislation. This situation creates a challenge to deepen aspects of the common value of various stakeholders as the value of integrity that must be present in the implementation of forestry law enforcement activities.

In addition, another challenge is that the federal and state governments take seriously the importance of forests and their role on environmental balance, clean water supply and improving the socio-economic level of the community. Therefore, the enforcement of forestry that has been gazetted as a permanent forest reserve needs to be controlled from being gazetted out through the amendment of section 11, Act 313 (Marzuki et al., 2022). Nevertheless, this bill has taken into account that the jurisdiction of state authorities regarding land and forests under items two and three of the state list of the 9th schedule, the Federal Constitution and Act 313 is a law enacted for the purpose of uniformity under article 76 (1 )(b) The Federal Constitution's application to Act 313 is as provided under article 76(3) of the Federal Constitution where the state government has to adopt any legislation enacted by the federal government before it can be enforced in the state (Omar et al., 2022). Any new application or extension of the mine management scheme approval letter for the mining site in the Tasik Chini biosphere reserve site area is also not considered. This is in line with the ministry's current policy of not supporting and issuing SKSM letters on land with the status of permanent reserve forest, HSK or protection reserve and areas gazetted as environmentally sensitive areas (Ramli et al., 2022). The amendment of this bill also allows the national forestry legal framework to move in line with current developments to achieve the main objective. Among them is strengthening forest enforcement in order to combat the activities of taking forest products without permission as well as overcoming the issue of ambiguity and unclear powers.

## ■ 3.0 WAY TO IMPROVE INTEGRITY IN FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

There are steps that can be taken by improving the integrity of the Forestry Department to be more transparent by identifying existing weaknesses in the system. This has been and is being done by the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM) in fostering and empowering integrity in the organization. The programs carried out are No Gifts Campaign, Corruption Free Pledge, Mystery Shopping Program (Surprise Visit), Integrity Testing and Integrity Strengthening Program (JPNP, 2022). This program is also expanded at the State Forestry Department level. In addition, through the Corruption Risk Management program was also held by Perak Forestry Department in 2022 (JPNP, 2022). Through this medium, brainstorming among officials who are directly involved in this work process has identified weaknesses in the system and procedures that can be improved, including the application process for logging area approval.

Among the other improvements that were also found was revising the work procedures for area applications and creating an open tender system so that the selection of loggers is more transparent. Based on statistics, the number of MACC corruption information from 2010 to 2013 is 252 information. After the establishment of the Forestry Integrity Unit in 2014 until now, the amount of information received shows a decrease to 187 information (JPNP, 2022). The case of the Forestry Department officer's arrest is an isolated case and is not a true reflection of the integrity problem in the Forestry Department. However, JPSM does not compromise on officers and staff involved in corruption, abuse of power and malpractices that can affect the image and dignity

of the department.

Among other methods that can be done to improve weaknesses and strengthen integrity in Forestry Department staff are surprise visits through the 'Mystery Shopping' program. The program's approach is to be a benchmark for service quality compliance or regulations. Even based on this program, we will obtain information about the products and services that have been provided by the staff of the Forestry Department. Furthermore, from the customer's perspective, the evaluation can be made based on feedback from the actual experience of customers who use the services from the Forestry Department staff. This program involves officers of the Forestry Integrity Unit or from among outsiders who are appointed without the knowledge of the evaluated party in order to achieve transparency in providing services. This program uses four methods of approach, namely observation through disguised individuals, face-to-face questionnaires using forms, phone calls and oral interviews. This program uses two main instruments which are the Service Management Inspectorate Checklist and the evaluation report including physical evidence such as photos, audio videos and documents.

There are three stages of implementation of the Mystery Shopping Program, namely pre-implementation, during implementation and post-implementation. Setting goals at the three levels is different because it depends on the state of the data obtained. At this pre-implementation stage, there are several preparations made by setting objectives, determining the official visit, checklist documents and the establishment of the Mystery Shopping Team. Meanwhile, at the current stage of the program's implementation, the purpose of the program is to collect and coordinate findings based on the order of the plan and the method of approach carried out. For the last stage, which is post-implementation, it is more focused on the evaluation and impact of the results of the program. It involves several post-implementation processes, namely the preparation and delivery of a discovery report within 14 working days to the office. The second process collects the feedback report after 14 working days from the period of sending the discovery report. Next, the preparation of the Mystery Shopping Discovery Analysis Report is done for the presentation of the report in the JPSM Anti-Corruption Committee Meeting.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Therefore, transparent integrity with efficiency from every member involved in the enforcement of forestry laws should be more practiced in order to maintain the preservation and conservation of these natural resources. The value of common integrity that needs to be there to increase the appreciation of the aspects of heritage conservation among stakeholders to practice enforcement more firmly and be responsible for preserving forest treasures. This component of common integrity value is formed as a result of the combination that exists based on the enforcement of forestry legislation to the perspective of various stakeholders. This value has a significant contribution to the opportunities and benefits as well as the role and responsibility of stakeholders in the successful management of integrated governance systems in forestry legislation. Any effort to manage heritage conservation activities and sustainable development needs to start with the attitudes and values held by the local community. In fact, it can be a binding agent of governance social relations at the organizational, institutional, social and individual levels. Although the development of the common value component is still in its early stages, the accumulated information about the diversity of values that exist in it is important to be emphasized in the development of the governance system in order to be more organized and directed. A public education framework based on common values was also developed in this study taking into account the diversity of functions and roles of stakeholders to strengthen the value of integrity.

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