

# Acknowledging the use right of women crab collectors over customary land use changes: A case study in Merauke, Papua-Indonesia.

BY:

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PRESENTED AT GAF7 - THE 7<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES, BANGKOK, 18-20 OCTOBER 2018

# Background

- ▶ Merauke contributes 25% of total mangrove in Papua and Mangrove in Papua contributes to 40% of Mangrove forest in Indonesia → 10% of mangrove in Indonesia are in Merauke
- ▶ Coastal community depends on resources in mangrove forests
- ▶ Especially Women feed the family from resources from mangrove forest
- ▶ Rapid Changes of Land use, including mangrove forest, over development in Merauke

# Merauke

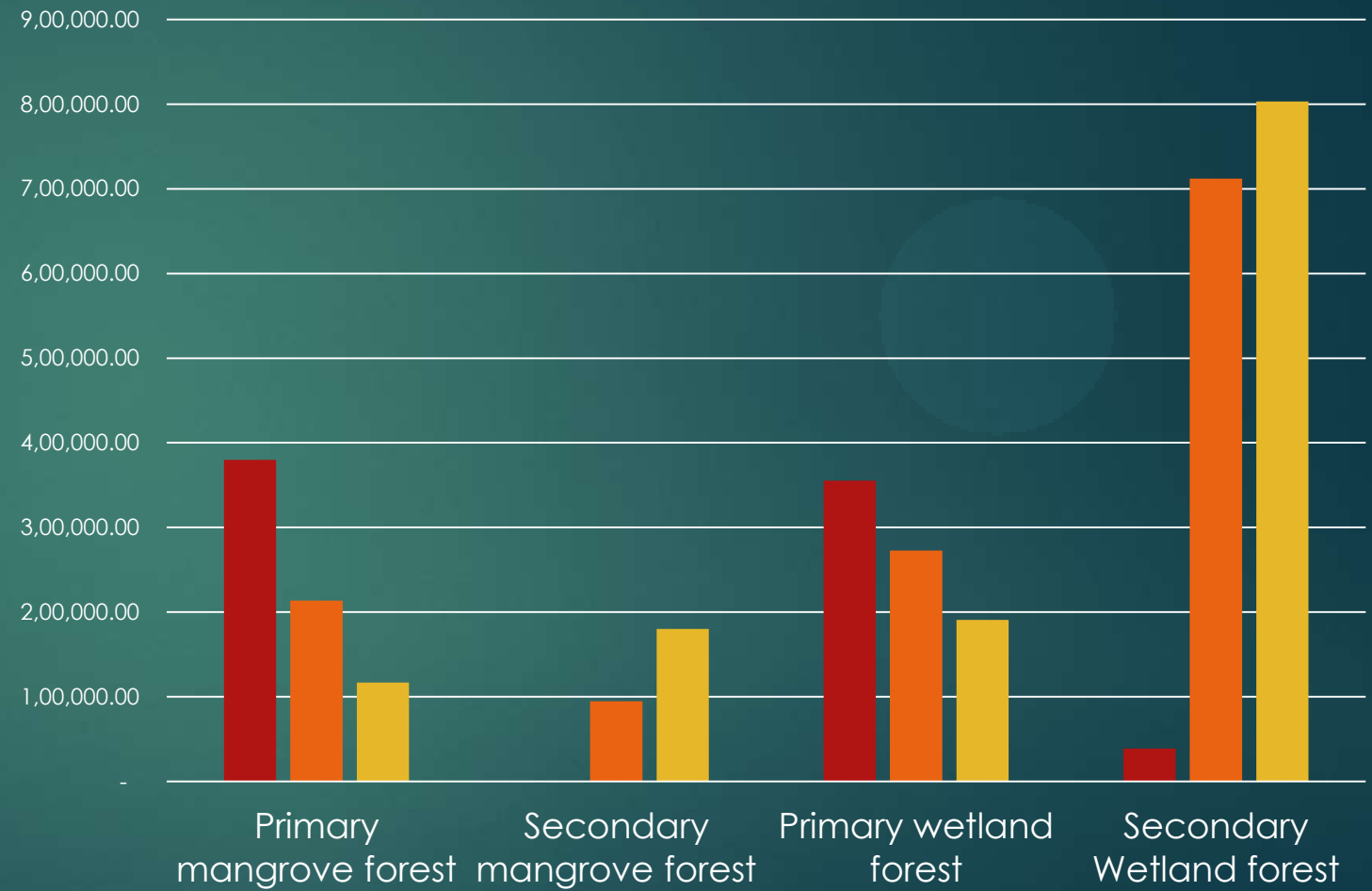
- ▶ The terrestrial area: 14.67% of total Papua Province land the largest area of district in Papua Province.
- ▶ 20 sub districts and 168 villages
- ▶ Population: 216,585 people (112,194 males and 104,391 females) (BPS Merauke 2016)
- ▶ 9.08% of productive age are unemployed (BPS Merauke 2016).
- ▶ 11.10% of total population live below poverty line (BPS Merauke 2016).
- ▶ Around 9.86% of total population live without electricity, 54.04% of total population have no access to drinking water (WFP 2015).
- ▶ Economic growth: 7.04% (BPS Merauke 2016).
- ▶ Expenditure per capita per month in rural area Merauke is Rp 768,586 (about US\$52)



# Mangroves in Merauke

- ▶ The area of primary mangrove and wetland forests in Merauke is slowly decreasing from 1990, 2000 and 2010
- ▶ This conversion has changed primary mangrove forest and wetland forest, from being net sinks to net sources of carbon
- ▶ The decreasing areas of primary mangrove and wetland forest from 2000 to 2010 contributes to 47,299,610.34 ton CO<sub>2</sub> e
- ▶ Mangrove forest are mostly used by women, gathering craft material, bag *noken*, food, fishing grounds and washing areas along the river.

The area of mangrove and wetland forest in Merauke  
1990, 2000 and 2010



Source: Prasetyo et al 2012

■ 1990 ■ 2000 ■ 2010

# Women in General in Merauke

- ▶ 48% of total population in Merauke (BPS Merauke 2016)
- ▶ The participation of women in education
  - ▶ basic education is about the same with male participation
  - ▶ Senior high school is 47% while male participation is at 53% (AIPD 2014).
- ▶ The literacy rate:
  - ▶ Women: 85.14%
  - ▶ men is 97.64%. (AIPD 2014).
- ▶ 50% of women experience domestic violence (AIPD 2014) – an issue that has yet to be strategically solved.
- ▶ Responsible to food security of the family

# Women crab collectors: Who?

- ▶ Ethnic: Asmat & Mappi
- ▶ 10 people of Asmat and 10 people of Mappi were identified as crab collectors
- ▶ Where are their houses? Maro and Samkai, Merauke
- ▶ Gathered crabs in mangrove forest for selling and food



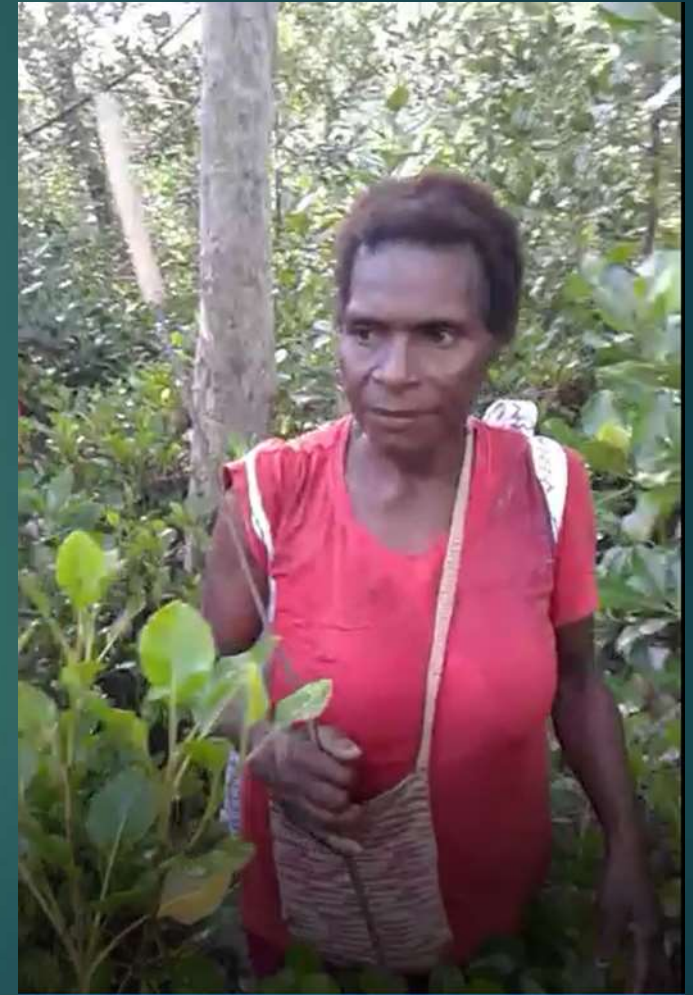
# Methods

- ▶ In depth interview with:
  - ▶ four women crab collectors
  - ▶ Sellers
  - ▶ Customary leaders in Merauke district, Indonesia
- ▶ Observation
- ▶ Collected in 2017 and early 2018

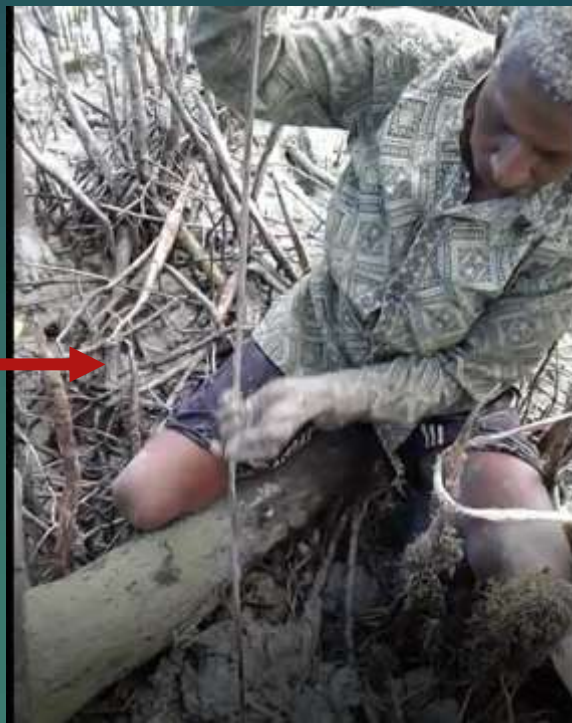


# Practices in Collecting crab

- ▶ Equipment: iron stick, axe, sacks
- ▶ Material to pack the crab: banana tree sheaths, ropes from trees
- ▶ Distance to crab collection:
  - ▶ How to go there: on foot (asmat 2-3 hours, Mappi 4-5 hours), rent a pick up car, rent a boat
  - ▶ Cost of pick up car rent: Rp 200,000/people/trip
  - ▶ Duration of crab collection: 3 nights
- ▶ No payment to land owner
- ▶ These women have access and can benefit of mangrove forests but no ownership





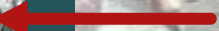


Sell to traders

Send to Jakarta/  
Surabaya

Sell by the road/  
market

Consumers in Merauke



# Crab location



## PETA PARTISIPASI

LOKASI PEMANFAATAN KEPITING  
KEL. TAM JAK COAK BIMINIM COAK  
KOMUNITAS SAMKAI, MARO  
KABUPATEN MARAUKE, PAPUA



### LEGENDA:

-  Lokasi Pengambilan Kepiting Komunitas Samkai.
-  Lokasi Pengambilan Kepiting Komunitas Maro
-  Lokasi Pengambilan Kepiting Musim Banjir/Hujan.
-  Lokasi Pengambilan Kayu Bakar dan Ulat Kayu

Source: Seagnet, 2017

# Economic benefits:

- ▶ Source of income and food
- ▶ Abundant and bigger size during rainy season and high tide but difficult to access
- ▶ Mappi: around 10 big size and smaller size a lot: total 40 crabs/trip
- ▶ Asmat: 20 crabs and mostly small size, sold at Rp 15,000/kg
- ▶ Sold to collectors: big size: Rp 30,000-50,000/crab
- ▶ Sold by the road
- ▶ What is the money for:
  - ▶ Buying rice
  - ▶ Drinking water
  - ▶ Transportation
  - ▶ Children needs



Improving practices through Seagnet project intervention:

Using trap instead of iron stick



### Experienced benefits with new practice:

- No broken claws
- Only bigger size trapped
- Crab lives longer
- Better price
- No need to dig
- Less dirty
- No need to bring cloth changes

# They didn't use it!!!!




## Concern:

- The area of crab collection is far from home
- Trap should be left and collect again after several hours
- If they have to go forth and back again, then, increase cost
- Who would watch the trap from being stolen/destroyed?
- The area of crab doesn't belong to us so we cant leave our belonging on the land, including the trap.
- The main concern is we go further and further to catch crab.



Concern:

- ▶ 10 km of mangrove forest along the Kamahedoga
  - ▶ 20 ha had changed to private sea port, boat anchored,
  - ▶ more hectares for government offices
  - ▶ replanted mangroves, destroyed due to the owners of the communal land sold the land to a fishing trader to build a seaport
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# Challenges

- ▶ Livelihood security is an issue
- ▶ The crab collector has no ownership over the land, mangrove forests.
- ▶ The crab collectors, Asmat and Mappi people, have access and benefit rights
- ▶ *Hak ulayat* belongs to Marind People
- ▶ No discussion when the entitled right owner over the communal land (*hak ulayat*) transfer the land use

# Women & Customary system in Marind, Merauke

- There are 5 big ethnics in Merauke:
  - Marind
  - Mayu
  - Mandobo
  - Mappi
  - Asmat
- Marind is the majority of holding the communal rights over the land
- Mappi and Asmat have no communal rights over the land in Merauke
- Mappi and Asmat have “hak anim” rights to access and benefit from the resources
- 3 important things in Customary institution:
  - The customary leader
  - The leader of the customary institution
  - The leader of sub ethnics, marga.
- Women position is the wife of customary leader
- Women's roles are:
  - To support domestic matters of customary leader
  - Provide inputs to customary leader
- Women have no position in the customary governance,
- Women are excluded from decision making process



# Conclusion

- ▶ Mangrove and wet land forests are important source of food for Asmat and Mappi People
- ▶ Tenure loss would increase the likelihood of food insecurity and poverty among these marginalized communities
- ▶ Having “hak anim” doesn’t secure the livelihoods of crab collectors
- ▶ No place for use right in the discussion of land transferred, no discussion, no prior informed concern, not involved in the decision making process, no compensation
- ▶ Who will protect the use and benefit rights over the collective property?
- ▶ Governance bodies that do not include the use rights of women will be ineffective as not all users are taken into consideration.

# Acknowledgments

Part of the data were collected during baseline survey and monitoring of a project entitled The Seagnet Project. This project is implemented by The Tierrmarr and The Coral Triangle Center, funded by the Australian Government.

**Thank you**

