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Dear Editor-in-chief of *Jurnal Wilayah dan Lingkungan*,

We wish to submit our manuscript entitled, “**Policy in community-based environmental conservation and protection: A comparative study between Brazil and Indonesia**” for consideration by *Jurnal Wilayah dan Lingkungan*. We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this manuscript, we review the lessons learned from the successful practice of Voluntary Environmental Agents (VEA) program (community-based environmental conservation and protection initiatives) in Amazon, Brazil and compare it with the implementation of Social Forestry (“Perhutanan Sosial”, SF) in Indonesia. This paper is significant because it highlights the main points and recommends concrete steps based on the comparison between the VEA program in Brazil and the SF schemes in Indonesia as examples of community-based initiatives in environmental conservation and management which have been legitimized by the relevant regulations. We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by *Jurnal Wilayah dan Lingkungan* as its topic aligns with the journal focus, including sustainability issues in economic, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions in Indonesia.

This manuscript offers new insights into the lessons learned from the successful implementation of the VEA program in Brazil and determines whether these points can be adapted to increase the positive impact of SF implementation in Indonesia (as SF still faces various challenges and obstacles in its implementation, including the inevitably negative impact of SF on the environment). The findings stated in this manuscript underscore that there is a fundamental difference between the implementation of those two community-based initiatives which may be of interest to its readers.

We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Diah Fitri Ekarini