

# Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Servant Investigators' Duties and Functions in Handling Forestry Law Violation Cases

Meurina Desthabu<sup>1</sup>, Syamsul Hadi<sup>2</sup>

Faculty of Sharia and Law, Veteran National Development University Jakarta

Email: [desthabumeurina@gmail.com](mailto:desthabumeurina@gmail.com),

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**Abstract :** *The role of Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS) in the forestry sector has a huge impact on proving the existence of a violation of the law on forests, forest areas, and forest products before being further processed by the Investigators of the Indonesian National Police and the Public Prosecutor. Investigation begins with the discovery or report/complaint from parties who have testimony to an allegation related to a violation of the law concerning forestry. Due to the limited authority possessed by a forestry PPNS, it requires coordination and supervision by Law Enforcement Officials (APH) such as Police Investigators and Prosecutors to follow up on all sufficient evidence obtained. However, it is not only the extension of law enforcement officers that makes forestry violation cases reach a settlement, but also the internal implementation of PPNS duties and functions in the field. Because if it is only linked to the legitimate authority contained in Article 77 of Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry, it is not enough to accommodate the performance of PPNS to maximize the credit for completing the investigation of each case handled. Therefore, this research will focus on strengthening the duties and functions of PPNS in the forestry sector in order to achieve more effective, solutive and accurate investigations of cases that are often unpredictable in type and form. This research uses a conceptual approach through a collection of data from a legal problem that is analyzed into a descriptive explanation in the form of a settlement argument. So that this research is made with the aim of optimizing the practice of delivering solutions as an alternative that can be a consideration for the discipline that the author is engaged in.*

**Keywords :** *Investigation, Handling, and Reinforcement of Capacity*

**Abstrak :** Peran Penyidik Pegawai Negeri Sipil (PPNS) bidang kehutanan berdampak sangat besar untuk membuktikan adanya suatu pelanggaran hukum terhadap hutan, kawasan hutan, dan hasil hutan sebelum diproses lebih lanjut oleh pihak Penyidik Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia dan Penuntut Umum. Penyidikan dimulai dengan adanya penemuan maupun laporan/aduan dari pihak-pihak yang memiliki kesaksian terhadap suatu dugaan terkait pelanggaran hukum menyangkut kehutanan. Dikarenakan terbatasnya kewenangan yang dimiliki oleh seorang PPNS bidang kehutanan, maka dibutuhkan adanya koordinasi dan pengawasan oleh Aparat Penegak Hukum (APH) seperti Penyidik Polri dan Jaksa guna melakukan tindak lanjut atas seluruh cukup bukti yang didapatkan. Namun, bukan hanya karena perpanjangan dari APH yang membuat kasus pelanggaran bidang kehutanan menemui penyelesaian, melainkan karena pelaksanaan tugas dan fungsi PPNS secara internal di lapangan. Sebab jika hanya bertaut pada kewenangan absah yang tertuang pada Pasal 77 Undang-Undang Nomor 41 Tahun 1999



Tentang Kehutanan, belum cukup mengakomodir kinerja PPNS untuk memaksimalkan kredit penyelesaian penyidikan terhadap setiap kasus yang ditangani. Maka dari itu penelitian ini akan berfokus pada penguatan tugas dan fungsi PPNS bidang kehutanan agar tercapainya penyidikan yang lebih efektif, solutif, dan akurat terhadap kasus yang seringkali tidak dapat terprediksi jenis dan bentuknya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan konseptual melalui kumpulan data dari suatu permasalahan hukum yang dinalisa menjadi sebuah penjabaran deskriptif berupa argumentasi penyelesaian. Sehingga penelitian ini dibuat dengan tujuan untuk mengoptimalkan praktik penyampaian solusi sebagai alternatif yang dapat menjadi suatu pertimbangan terhadap disiplin ilmu yang ditekuni penulis.

**Kata kunci :** Penyidik, Penanganan, dan Penguatan Kapasitas

## I. INTRODUCTION

Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS) carry out the scope of duties and functions in accordance with the responsibilities/authorities specifically regulated in a provision according to their management. For this reason, a PPNS in the forestry sector is an investigator with civil servant status who carries out investigations related to the scope of forestry. This scope is divided into three domains, namely, forests, forest areas, and forest products, all three of which are regulated in Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry (Forestry Law). Forests themselves mean an inseparable unity as an ecosystem in the form of a vast expanse dominated by trees and natural resources from similar allies. Then, regarding forest areas, it can be interpreted as a certain area whose existence is maintained to become a permanent forest by the Government. Meanwhile, forest products can be in the form of biological objects, non-biological objects and their derivatives, to services derived from a forest. All of these are regulated in Chapter I (one) of the General Provisions of the Forestry Law. The legal actions of PPNS are essentially actions taken to implement provisions contained in applicable laws and regulations or to regulate and serve the public interest crystallized in the relevant laws and regulations. The existence of PPNS is highly dependent on the needs brought by specific laws, where in general these laws and regulations are laws within the realm of State Administrative Law (HAN).

Forests are the most strategic natural resource, not only for their ecological benefits but also for their ability to improve the nation's economic well-being if properly maintained. It is unfortunate that of the total 95.5 million hectares of forest land in Indonesia, 175.4 thousand hectares have been destroyed by illegal logging, deforestation, and the opening of illegal mining sites in forest areas. These figures indicate that Indonesian law is not strong enough to stop or even deter individuals who destroy forests, forest areas, and forest products. This is despite the provisions of Article 3 letter (e) of Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry, which clearly states that forestry management aims to maximize the prosperity of the people, especially ensuring the realization of equitable and sustainable distribution of benefits. These provisions contradict the facts on the ground. Therefore, the role of Civil Servants (PPNS) in the forestry sector in conducting inclusive investigations that solely support ecological justice and the rights of affected communities is crucial and needs to be improved. The role of PPNS is differentiated between authority and duties and functions.

Not many people realize that the authority and duties and functions of a Civil Servant Official (PPNS) are two different things. Because many focus solely on the results and performance credits achieved by PPNS, they often overlook the importance of increased accommodation to reach the peak or maximum point of investigations as an effort to handle violations related to forests, forest areas, and forest products. Duties and functions are literally defined as the rights and limits of power in decision-making. Authority, on the other hand, is a series of actions carried out to achieve a specific goal within the limits of the authority and duties. Therefore, authority and duties and functions are interconnected, with duties and functions serving as guidelines for the exercise of authority to achieve a resolution. This is illustrated in the duties and functions of PPNS, namely conducting investigations into forestry cases until sufficient evidence is gathered for follow-up. Therefore, in order to carry out their investigative duties and functions, PPNS in the forestry sector have their respective roles and authorities as part of their efforts. This authority will ultimately indicate that PPNS are investigators with integrity in resolving cases of forestry law violations.

Capacity building is an urgent need for every Civil Servant Official (PPNS) to balance the implementation of their authority within their assigned duties and functions. Increasing the potential of PPNS will result in enhanced capabilities, encompassing greater understanding, skills, and abilities. Strengthening duties and functions is realistic and can be implemented effectively and efficiently. This, in accordance with the theory of legal effectiveness, is not determined by the number of regulations formulated on a legal issue, but rather by the success of practices that are expected to be adaptive and solution-oriented, following the dynamic perspective on a violation. Therefore, if a role is well-executed, balanced with the complexity of PPNS capabilities, ecological justice will stand as a sustainable and inclusive supremacy that intersects with the realization of the principles of sustainable development.

The role of investigators can be said to be the first legal effort in proving crimes against violations in forestry cases, but it should be underlined that investigators are not Law Enforcement Officers (APH) whose movements to investigate are limited to violations regulated in the Forestry Law alone. For this reason, harmonization is needed between Civil Servant Investigators and Law Enforcement Officers in handling until completion, namely collaboration with the Public Prosecutor (Prosecutor) under the coordination of supervision by the Investigator of the Republic of Indonesia National Police. The form of coordination that is explicitly structured in the Law is an extension of the PPNS to the Public Prosecutor through the submission of investigation files that are first sent to the police as a form of supervision to validate evidence of legal violations, assisting with arrests or detentions in accordance with the provisions of Article 77 of the Forestry Law. If the evidence is deemed sufficient, it will go up to the next process, forwarded to the public prosecutor to load charges against the violator where this includes the duties of the police as regulated in Article 16 Paragraph (1) letter i of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police (POLRI Law). Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that obstacles still arise. Therefore, compliance with the law is a priority to ensure adherence to the assigned role and effective coordination. If any errors occur, a structured evaluation can be carried out. Ultimately, the Civil Servant

Prosecutor (PPNS) requires internal strengthening to ensure coordination and control over ensuring the completion of a case.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

The author conducted an empirical legal research (empirical juridical), with a legal identification process that refers to facts in the field regarding an issue concerning the importance of law enforcement. This research was written using a conceptual approach method through the accumulation of foundations that are able to form a hypothesis on a legal event with a field research data collection method (observation and interviews). Therefore, the supporting data sources used are a combination of primary legal materials (central and regional laws and regulations) and secondary legal materials (draft laws, previous research, scientific journals, articles or other legal works and books). This research was written using a descriptive writing technique, which describes a detailed and systematic analysis of problem solving.

## III. DISCUSSION

### A. The Role of Civil Servant Investigators in the Implementation of Investigations into Forestry Law Violation Cases

#### 1. Duties and Functions of Civil Servant Investigators in Statutory Regulations

Previously, we have explained the difference between the authority and the duties and functions of a PPNS. Therefore, in order to understand how influential the duties and functions of a PPNS in the forestry sector are in carrying out investigations so that they can ultimately be handled, we must first thoroughly understand their authority in Article 77 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry (Forestry Law), which includes:

- a. Conducting checks on the accuracy of a report or statement;
- b. Conducting investigations into suspected law violators covering forests, forest areas and forest products;
- c. Check the identity cards of everyone found at the scene of the crime;
- d. Conducting searches and confiscating evidence;
- e. Requesting information and evidence from parties who still have a legal relationship regarding violations of forestry law;
- f. Carrying out coordination with Police Investigators in arrest or detention actions;
- g. Make and sign minutes;
- h. Stop the investigation if there is not enough evidence regarding the allegations.

Before starting an investigation, the PPNS must first notify the Public Prosecutor directly that an investigation will be conducted into alleged violations of forestry law. Usually, this notification is given in the form of a Notice of Commencement of Investigation (SPDP) document in accordance with Article 77 Paragraph (3) of Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry. The SPDP received by the Public Prosecutor through the National Police Investigator is a sign that investigation coordination will take

place, and then updates/developments in information will be sent in stages according to the findings obtained by the PPNS. This is because there will be harmonization of understanding with evidence collected by the PPNS to the National Police Investigator as supervisor in forming a coherent hypothesis and the feasibility of follow-up handling until legal certainty is achieved for a resolution.

In conducting an investigation to determine the veracity of a report or statement, interviews are usually used, both with parties directly proven guilty and other legal subjects who are still involved, both through legal relationships and individuals who saw, witnessed, and heard directly in the field. The results of these interviews can be used as the main key to containing the development of the case and the collection of new evidence. After that, the identification process is carried out so that the status of suspicion is changed to a finding that can later be carried out the confiscation process. Confiscation is carried out as a repressive measure to minimize the movement that makes freedom for violators of forestry laws, erases traces and complicates the investigation process for PPNS. Then, if the investigation process has produced sufficient evidence, then through coordination with the National Police Investigators, arrests and detention will be carried out until the verdict is processed by the Public Prosecutor. Then, all these activities must be recorded in the minutes of the event, even if the investigation is terminated due to lack of evidence of a violation by the PPNS in the forestry sector independently.

The exercise of this authority is a legal remedy or a method for conducting a well-organized investigation into the scope of a PPNS' primary duties and functions in the forestry sector. Thus, the primary duties and functions of a PPNS consist of:

- a. Conducting investigations and inquiries into violations of forestry law
- b. Conducting examinations of factual witnesses and experts
- c. Gather enough evidence

## 2. Procedures for Investigating Forestry Law Violation Cases

The investigation begins with the receipt of 3 forms of information, namely:

- a. Verbal report (telephone or direct complaint)
- b. Findings (evidence found in forests and forest areas and not related to the active investigation process)
- c. Written report (filling out a report letter at the nearest PPNS office with indications of violations, complaints via integrated electronic mail managed by the Implementation Unit, summary of complaints/suggestions/criticisms on the PPNS one-stop service internet site in the nearest area with indications of a forestry violation)

This information will be collected and then reviewed by the PPNS Forestry Intelligence Division to identify the subject and target area of the operation. The target will be monitored through covert operations, which serve the purpose of field adjustments. These field adjustments facilitate the PPNS' crime scene investigation (TKP) and the identification of evidence at points of suspected violation.

If the target area is deemed safe, the Forestry PPNS will then move on to an investigation by gathering information based on witness testimony. Based on the witness testimony, a closed case review will usually be held to ensure the evidence obtained matches the witness testimony. Once sufficient evidence is deemed sufficient, the Forestry PPNS will identify the suspected violators who caused damage to the forest area or forest area. The suspect's identity and investigation report will then be submitted to the National Police Investigator for subsequent arrest and detention. During detention, the suspect will be interrogated. The information obtained during detention will be analyzed by the Police Investigative Team, and if proven guilty of a violation as stipulated in the Forestry Law, the PPNS, together with the National Police Investigator, will name the suspect. The complete files can then be submitted to the Public Prosecutor for sentencing.

In fact, in carrying out investigations, PPNS in the forestry sector are also assisted by the Forestry Security Unit and Forest Police. The Forest Security Unit has several roles, one of which is assisting PPNS in Sting Operations (OTT). OTT usually occurs when the Forestry Security Unit or Forest Police are conducting forest patrols. Because OTT is not a structured series of investigations, if a violation is discovered, the Forest Security Unit will immediately act, by first issuing a report of the discovery and an arrest permit. Then, once the PPNS has been identified, the Forest Security Unit will go down to the point of indication of violation together according to the attached evidence and has been examined. Meanwhile, the Forest Police role assists the Forest Security Unit in writing a report of the incident during the arrest, which will later be attached to the follow-up with the National Police Investigators. The entire series of investigative procedures mentioned above are part of the practice of justice, meaning that PPNS participate in law enforcement by ensuring that the results of the investigation are followed up until the end of the handling.

## 2.1 Coordination of Investigation Implementation by PPNS Forestry Officers with Law Enforcement Officials

The implementation of investigations by PPNS in the case of the commencement of investigations based on Article 21 of the Regulation of the Head of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 6 of 2010 concerning Coordination, Supervision and Guidance of Investigations for Civil Servant Investigators (PERKAP No. 6/2010) confirms the following:

- a. In the event of the commencement of an investigation, the PPNS is obliged to first notify the Public Prosecutor through the National Police Investigator of the commencement of the investigation in connection with a notification letter of commencement of investigation (SPDP) unless the law stipulates otherwise;
- b. The SPDP as referred to in paragraph (1) is accompanied by:
  - a) Incident report;
  - b) Investigation warrant and;
  - c) Minutes of events that have been created.

- c. The SPDP as referred to in paragraph (2) after being examined for completeness, is forwarded by the Police Investigator to the Public Prosecutor via a cover letter from the Police Investigator.

So in fact the role of a Prosecutor is more visible in coordinating the implementation of investigations because the investigation files are submitted directly to the Prosecutor, while coordination with the National Police Investigators is more about the detention, arrest, and the rest is a form of supervision only. Supervision carried out in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of Government Regulation Number 43 of 2012 concerning Procedures for Implementing Coordination, Supervision, and Technical Guidance for Special Police, Civil Servant Investigators, and Forms of Self-Security, in the form of:

- a. Implementation of case title;
- b. Monitoring the investigation process and submission of case files;
- c. Carrying out joint supervision with ministries/agencies that have PPNS at the request of the head of the PPNS agency;
- d. Data collection on case handling by PPNS; or
- e. Periodic analysis and evaluation of the implementation of investigative tasks.

Besides being supervised by functional officials such as National Police Investigators, in practice, forestry PPNS also have internal supervision. Regarding the implementation of this supervision, Article 25 paragraph (2) of PP No. 20/2010 states the following:

- a. Supervision as referred to in Paragraph (1) is carried out by the PPNS Supervisory Officer function holder through the following activities:
  - a) Attending and providing guidance in case titles carried out by PPNS;
  - b) Request and examine progress reports on investigations from PPNS;
  - c) Together with the PPNS, examine the case files resulting from the investigation carried out by the PPNS and forward them to the Public Prosecutor;
  - d) Based on the request of the PPNS agency leadership, joint supervision will be carried out with the relevant PPNS ranks;
  - e) Conducting data collection on the number, agencies and areas of PPNS assignments, case handling by PPNS and investigative assistance from investigators; and
  - f) Analysis and evaluation of the implementation of investigative tasks carried out by PPNS.

Even during their supervision, National Police investigators continue to pass this information on to the Public Prosecutor, thus creating an ideal synergy between the duties and functions of Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS), Public Prosecutors, and National Police investigators.

Not only through the National Police Law are regulations regarding the running of this coordination, but it is also regulated in Article 6 of PERKAP Number 20 of 2010, which explains the technical aspects of coordination, by stating the following:

- a. Investigators coordinate the implementation of investigative tasks carried out by PPNS;
- b. Coordination is carried out from the time the PPNS notifies the Public Prosecutor through the investigator of the commencement of the investigation;
- c. Coordination as referred to in paragraph (1) is carried out in the form of activities:
  - a) Receive a letter of notification of the commencement of the investigation;
  - b) Providing technical, tactical, coercive assistance and investigative consultation to PPNS to improve and expedite the completion of files;
  - c) Receive case files from PPNS and forward them to the Public Prosecutor;
  - d) Termination of investigation by PPNS;
  - e) The task of exchanging information regarding suspected criminal acts whose investigations are carried out by PPNS:
  - f) Regular meetings; and
  - g) Joint investigation.

Talking about coordination carried out by PPNS with Law Enforcement Officers, it must be balanced with technical provisions in the field. Because this does not mean that when the coordination line is in place, it is not emphasized by mechanisms. Other technical regulations related to the concept of coordination are regulated in Article 9 paragraph (2) of PP Number 43/2012 which states that:

- a. Receive a notification letter regarding the commencement of an investigation from the PPNS and forward it to the Public Prosecutor in accordance with the provisions of the Laws and Regulations;
- b. Planning activities in the context of implementing joint investigations according to their respective authorities;
- c. Providing technical and tactical assistance, coercive measures and investigative consultations to PPNS;
- d. Receive case files resulting from investigations from PPNS and forward them to the Public Prosecutor in accordance with the provisions of statutory regulations;
- e. Attending or holding a case title signed by PPNS;
- f. Receive notification regarding the termination of the investigation from the PPNS and forward it to the Public Prosecutor;
- g. Exchanging data and information regarding suspected criminal acts whose investigations are being carried out by PPNS; and
- h. Attend regular meetings held by PPNS.

All types of criminal acts referred to in these provisions are forms of violations of the law as stated in Article 50 Paragraph (3) of the Forestry Law.

### 3. Obstacles in the Implementation of Investigations into Cases of Forestry Law Violations

Even though various forms of policy have been explained very specifically, they still cannot stop obstacles or problems that hinder the progress of investigations, some of which include:

#### a. Conflict of Authority between Institutions

This occurs because the Civil Servant Inspectorate (PPNS) coordinates between institutions, namely the Indonesian National Police (Polri) and the Prosecutor's Office (AGO). These institutions also have standardized regulations that cannot be tolerated regarding the duties and functions of the PPNS. Furthermore, unresponsive administrative issues often delay investigations. Furthermore, the determination of the type of violation is a matter of debate, whether it is a criminal offense, which is the Police's domain, but the PPNS is the one who finds the violation, or vice versa, resulting in procedural errors in the initiation of the investigation. If it is not the PPNS's domain, it should be delegated to the National Police investigator, or vice versa. However, in reality, both institutions often conduct investigations, and there is overlapping authority in reaching a resolution, as evidenced by the lack of coordination regarding the initiation of the investigation. This naturally leads to conflict, as it is difficult to delegate authority while the institutions are unaware of each other.

#### b. The PPNS Institution is Unclear and Not Intensive

The PPNS itself is not an independent institution, so the obstacles encountered are interruptions and interventions from external parties who interfere in its internal affairs. This often occurs because these external parties perceive a vested interest or a need to clean up its existence. Furthermore, in line with independence issues, the Ministry of Forestry is now separate from the Ministry of Environment, so there are still challenges in adjusting to the formation of the Directorate General and adapting to norms there.

#### c. Limited Operational Costs, Facilities, and Infrastructure for Law Enforcement

This occurs because forestry PPNS are not functional officials, but rather implementing officials. Therefore, they lack a fixed budget to implement a massive program. Consequently, investigations remain suboptimal due to inadequate facilities, which sometimes don't support performance.

#### d. Weak Skills of Forestry PPNS

The lack of experience of forestry civil servants (PPNS) in conducting investigations is due to not all PPNS having a good grasp of operational procedures for investigations and the legal content that forms the basis for conducting investigations and analyzing the types of violations. Furthermore, not all PPNS have a forestry education background, which is then not supported by participation in forestry certification. Consequently, a shortage of human resources, such as in areas with a high number of forestry violations, forces central

PPNS to go to the regions without understanding the mechanisms that exist in those areas, which can be fatal in handling cases.

e. Errors in Determining the Type of Violation and Form of Punishment

It is highly questionable to believe that deterrence only leads to criminal penalties. This should not be applied absolutely, considering that the principle of effectiveness in handling losses due to forestry violations actually creates new problems (TPPU) if it is always burdened with fines and imprisonment. Deterrence should actually yield benefits and rebuild the forest damage caused. Therefore, along with the growing efforts to care for forestry as a source of life, it is possible that Civil Servants (PPNS) could be given the mandate to impose administrative sanctions that are considered wise, such as requests for revocation of business permits, burdening the implementation of *Corporate Social Responsibility* (CSR) obligations through carbon taxes, implementing the principle of "whoever violates is responsible" (the principle of *Worker-Driven Social Responsibility*), and increasing audits of forest management utilization of forests and forest areas.

f. Lack of Discipline in Supervision Levels as a Preventive Measure

The supervision carried out is still limited to prevention, not law enforcement.

g. Stagnation of Coordination Forms

The tendency for investigations to stagnate or even stall is not due to a lack of investigations or transparency in responding to complaints. Rather, it is the result of limited, or even nonexistent, repressive measures by civil servants (PPNS). This hinders smooth communication and coordination, resulting in delayed or even impossible resolutions. This is because PPNS are solely responsible for conducting investigations, while ensuring credit for settlements is secured.

h. Easy Access to Permits, Concessions, and Dispensations

As stated in Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning the Principles of Good Governance (UUAPB), which should go through a long process, there are still many individuals who falsify the permits for business interests and do not manage their businesses so that only damage is left behind and has an impact on the life of the forest ecosystem itself.

B. Strengthening Duties and Functions to Support the Performance of Civil Servant Investigators

1. Strengthening the Capacity of Duties and Functions in Supporting the Performance of Civil Servant Investigators in Exercising Their Authority

Civil Servant Investigators (PPNS) in the forestry sector carry out their duties and functions as well as their authority as implementing officials, where the implementing position is closely associated with special characteristics, namely having similar characteristics, mechanisms, and work patterns. This is because the PPNS in the forestry sector, both central and regional, continue to implement an orderly system in accordance with the provisions of the Law and the applicable derivative regulations as a medium of implementation. Moreover, many PPNS work units are grouped into Task Implementation Units (UPT), namely organizations or institutions that oversee PPNS in special functions, for example, such as the Law Enforcement Center. Thus, of course, there are similarities in the realm of strengthening the capacity of PPNS which has been regulated in the provisions of Article 14 Paragraph (1) letter f jo. Article 14 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police, which outlines the Coordination and Supervision (*korwas*) pattern established under the authority of the Republic of Indonesia National Police, the implementation procedures for which must be formulated through Government Regulations (PP).

Government Regulation Number 43 of 2012 Concerning Procedures for Implementing Coordination, Supervision, and Technical Guidance for Special Police, Civil Servant Investigators, and Forms of Self-Security accommodates the formulation of Article 14 of the National Police Law mentioned above, where indeed to carry out a more specific improvement it must be formulated into derivative regulations as specific implementation content, as stated in Article 18. However, strengthening of other essences is still needed, as follows:

a. *Workshops*, Technical Guidance (Bimtek) and *In-House Training*

Technical guidance for handling forestry cases is implemented in the form of *workshops* on preparing case files, preparing investigative reports (LHP), preparing examination reports (BAP), and transferring cases to the Public Prosecutor. Furthermore, *in-house training* on forestry law enforcement information systems is needed to adapt to developments in the digitalization of cases.

b. Technical Training and Certification

Technical education and training in investigating forestry violations, including the Civil Servant Officer Certification exam through the National Police Training Institute, to obtain a Civil Servant Appointment Decree from the Minister of Law and Human Rights. Passing the certification exam demonstrates integrity and competence for the field. This can then be combined with specialized investigation training that covers the fundamentals of handling violations that overlap with the provisions of the types of violations stipulated in the Forestry Law.

c. Simulation and Case Studies

Following the certification process, environmental case investigation simulations (*mock cases*) from the inquiry and prosecution stages to coordination with the public prosecutor can be included in the exam to prepare PPNS candidates for fieldwork. Prior studies of actual forestry cases were conducted as learning materials, so these simulation competencies serve as the foundation for character and mindset development for PPNS candidates.

d. Publication of Technical Guidelines and Modules

In this case, to ensure that PPNS are aware of the standardization of tasks and functions, along with their authority, it is necessary to strengthen the preparation of SOPs; investigation guidelines; training modules; and even the PPNS Environmental Pocket Book.

e. Coordination Forum and Technical Meeting

Regular coordination forums with the National Police Supervisory Agency (Korwas PPNS) and the Prosecutor's Office, along with technical meeting agendas between PPNS throughout Indonesia to align perceptions of law enforcement, can be a positive forum for performance evaluation and strengthening better synergy, and can also become archival materials for handling that can be used as examples for similar investigations in the urgency of efficient handling time appropriately.

f. Special Competency Training

In addition to the mandatory material on forestry, PPNS must also have integrity regarding things that may occur during the investigation process, namely training on handling corporate-based forestry law violations, as well as training on investigating forestry crimes suspected of Money Laundering (TPPU) because currently there are more and more cases of environmental and forestry violations that begin with bribery, gratuities, or embezzlement of funds. Therefore, PPNS must be aware of this and should know the affirmation and denial of these elements, so that the investigation runs honestly, fairly, and transparently.

2. Inter-Agency Cooperation in Synergy in Handling and Resolving Cases of Forestry Law Violations

To strengthen inter-agency coordination, *a position* beyond clearly written policies is needed. This represents a preventative measure to prevent functional decline in cooperation due to resistance to inter-agency integration. Therefore, a Cooperation Agreement (PKS) was established between the Forestry Civil Servant Officer (PPNS) and the Indonesian National Police (Polri), and between the Forestry Civil Servant Officer (PPNS) and the Attorney General's Office.

The urgency of the PKS is to jointly encourage the resolution of cases of forestry law violations that have completed the investigation stage. Because, returning to the

nature of PPNS which does not operate independently, as well as the deviations from expectations and performance that have been implemented, to avoid counterproductiveness, the memorandum of understanding Number: PKS.1/PKLHK/SET/3/2016 underlines Number: B/14/III/2016 accommodates the increase in resource capacity between PPNS and the Police, the utilization and provision of infrastructure during education/training, and the implementation of coordination to realize an increase in resource capacity as a whole. The follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding is the preparation of work guidelines between institutions, monitoring implementation, periodic evaluations every 6 (six) months, holding consultations with resource persons or experts, while still adhering to the proportionality of each task. Furthermore, regarding the cooperation established with the Attorney General's Office, Letter Number: B-8/E/Ejp/09/2024, underlining Number: PKS.3/PHLHK/SETPHLHK/SET.3.1/B/09/2024, emphasized that the intention is to implement synergy to strengthen the competence of PPNS in the context of coordinating case handling. This collaboration is in line with the principles of legal certainty and professionalism. Because ultimately the state must be present to jointly reduce the number of legal violations against forestry.

### C. CONCLUSION

In carrying out their duties and functions, supported by their investigative authority, Civil Servant Officers (PPNS) face limitations in resolving cases. Therefore, coordination with the Public Prosecutor and oversight by the National Police (Polri) allows case handling to reach the final stage for the sake of ecological justice. However, in reality, PPNS also encounter numerous obstacles, both due to internal PPNS issues and the coordination relationship with the Public Prosecutor and National Police investigators. This necessitates strengthening their duties, functions, and authorities through various technical efforts. Strengthening their capacity feels more immediate and rational than fixing, changing, or adding authorities, which would impact the reformulation of laws and regulations. It is better to expand their duties and functions while maintaining their authority, thus avoiding the risk of increasing conflicts of authority. This is because the authority must also be general and can be carried out by all PPNS at the central and regional levels. While their duties and functions can be adjusted according to the implementing unit according to conditions and needs, as long as they remain within the limits of their authority.

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