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J. ARNSCHEIDT

'Debating' nature conservation:
policy, law and practice in Indonesia



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'Debating' nature conservation: policy, law and practice in Indonesia

A discourse analysis of history and present

J. ARNSCHEIDT

This book is about the politics of nature conservation in late New Order and early Reformasi Indonesia. It approaches the subject through discourse analysis. Understanding politics as a struggle for discourse hegemony it analyses both processes of policy- and lawmaking in Jakarta and of implementation in national parks, and their outcomes, and addresses a number of questions: Which discourses have dominated conservation policies and laws throughout history? How did Ministers, members of Parliament, state officials, NGOs and residents of national parks try to decide debates on conservation in their advantage? Which unwritten rules helped or constrained them in this effort? How did the struggle for discourse hegemony affect policy and law, policy- and lawmaking and implementation?

Based on rich empirical case material the book argues that a multitude of discourses have come to co-exist which enabled actors to use arguments strategically, and that various actors have succeeded to mobilise discourses enabling them to participate in the debate without obligations.

The results of this study go beyond participating in the debate on what element of sustainable development to focus on but link the policy debate to the debate on governance and rule of law. By addressing the policy discourse and the discourses structuring policy- and lawmaking and implementation, the study wants to contribute not only to the field of nature conservation but also to the field of Indonesian law and governance in general.

'This book represents a major advance in our understanding of nature conservation politics in Indonesia. It is both a theoretically sophisticated application of discourse analysis to the process of policy formulation and implementation in Indonesia and an empirically rich body of work which ranges from the passion-filled corridors of power in Jakarta to the on-the-ground reality in national parks.'

Robert Cribb (Australian National University, Canberra)

This is a volume in the series of the E.M. Meijers Institute of Legal Studies of Leiden University. This study is part of the Law Schools' research programme on Securing the rule of law in a world of multilevel jurisdiction, subprogramme 'Formation, implementation and improvement of law and governance in developing countries'.



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