



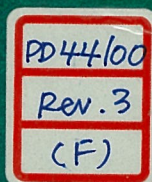
Proceed Together in Equal Roles



MINISTRY OF
FORESTRY



ITTO



Community Empowerment in the Buffer Zone
of Betung Kerihun National Park
2001 - 2003



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Communities as Leading Actors



Wawan Ridwan (WWF Doc.)

The biggest challenge and opportunities surrounding the successful management of Betung Kerihun National Park (*BKNP*) is the presence of the traditional *Adat*¹ community which has lived in and around this area for a very long time. A challenge to management is that their traditional claims to the forest include some areas within the designated National Park. A great benefit to conservation is that their traditions, culture and economic livelihoods are influenced by and dependant upon the integrity of the forest.

Within these Dayak² communities, there is a rich tradition of wisdom inherited from their ancestors regarding natural resource management. This traditional wisdom is a source of inspiration for sustainable management patterns. They have sustainably managed this area successfully for a long time. They traditionally recognize which forest areas are suitable for farming, and which areas must be specified as protected forests (*Tuaan*)³. They have also historically respected forests as an important function of watersheds and water quality.

Nevertheless, increased population pressures have led to increased competition and limitations to the economic opportunities available to these communities. These economic limitations have led to an increase in outside influence towards forest exploitation. This has diminished the power of the existing traditional wisdom and its ability to sustainably manage the natural resources. As a result, some *Adat* communities have been persuaded and are now involved in practices of reckless and illegal forest exploitation. Extensive deforestation due to illegal logging greatly threatens the protected forests and the National Park.

Considering the present condition stated above, it is obvious that the community is a central leading actor in the management of BKNP. As an actor, the community can take on many roles, and their actions will be influenced by the roles given by the stage managers (in this case management of BKNP). The community can become a productive and proactive part in the management of BKNP if the management of BKNP puts them in the right positions. Their existence has to be recognized and respected. The community has traditional rights and obligations central to the successful management and preservation of the BK National Park. Boundaries and demarcations for the conservation of biodiversity conflict with the community's ability for economic growth. Therefore, these demarcations have to be followed by the development of alternative economic programs for the community outside the National Park (buffer zone). This is necessary, as an incentive or transition medium away from direct dependency of existing resources within the National Park. Hence, the community will not see the National Park as an intrusion forced from outside, but see its existence as a source of wealth, socially, culturally, and economically.

Adequate attention needs to be paid to the development of socio-cultural partnerships in management and the economic prosperity of communities within and around the National Park. There is a danger to conservation if the management

of BKNP turns solely to security as an approach and threatens with laws. The community then has the potential to play a very destructive, reactionary role against management efforts of BKNP. It is very risky if the management of BKNP is perceived, not as a partner of the community but seen as an aggressor acting outside the communities needs. This especially provides an avenue for outside parties (such as wood brokers) to encourage the communities to work against management and join in exploitation of the National Park through illegal logging activities.



Non timber forest product market in Putussibau. (WWF Doc.)

In other words, positive or negative involvement of the community in the management of the National Park very much depends on the management approach and treatment of the surrounding communities. We have to trust and believe that, given the opportunity, the community wishes to remain living in a harmonious way with their environment.

Institutionally, WWF programs have shifted from not just the preservation of wildlife species but towards a broader natural diversity program that integrates the human dimension of sustainable development and community empowerment of the surrounding regions. At this time, WWF introduces 6 program goals; forest for people, species, marine and coastal, fresh water, pollution and climate change. These six program goals will be implemented according to ecological regions (Ecoregion Action Plan).

Community Empowerment (CE) conducted by WWF, together with BKNP, is part of phase II in The Implementation of a *Community-Based Trans-Boundary Management Plan for BKNP*⁴. This project is made possible through funding from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Activities are designed to integrate the community and invite them to share an active role in supporting the conservation and management of BKNP. The focus is for communities to realize the optimal potential of the natural environment for sustainable ecological health and economic prosperity for the community. The strategy is to facilitate and provide assistance to the communities for bringing out their own ideas in successful natural resource management. This is very important for the

realization of the National Park as an important part of the communities as well as the region as a whole.

Activities related to community empowerment are not easily conducted and demand a sufficient amount of time. The issues inhibiting community empowerment are not merely lack of education, but also can be socio-cultural systems and attitudes sometimes resistant to change.

Nowadays, Community Empowerment activities are conducted by WWF through the Community Organizer (CO) in the field. These activities have been going on for more than 1 year. There have been many experiences gained by the COs during their presence within the communities. Happiness and sorrow come and go, as they experience together the problems faced by the communities.

Through this book *A Profile of Community Empowerment*, these COs, in simple and detailed language, have brought out what they have done and experienced during their assignments within the communities.

To all COs, field officers of BKNP and project divisions that have assisted these CE activities, I, as the Project Leader render the highest gratitude and appreciation. Hopefully your efforts will become meaningful contributions for the management of BKNP in the time to come.

Wawan Ridwan
Project Leader
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project

Community Empowerment in Conservation Area Management



Soewartono (WWF Doc.)

Conservation is not the responsibility of the Government alone, but a responsibility of both the government as well as the community. The Law *UU5sec4, 1990* focuses on the Conservation of Natural Resources and Its Ecosystem. Thereby the community has a legal role of vital importance in realizing the balanced sustainability of natural resources in order to support quality of life and human welfare.

Conservation efforts that have been conducted so far have not shown a high level of success, on the contrary in the last three years the trend shows a worrying downward tendency. This is shown by the proliferation of illegal logging and excessive exploitation of natural resources which neglect the sustainability principle, and create dangers to human life. This condition is not only caused by inconsistent implementation of government policy and weak law enforcement, but also insufficient empowerment of local communities in conservation of natural resources and its ecosystems.

BK National Park has 800,000 hectare of forest resources with a high diversity of flora and fauna, it is geographically situated in the center of Kalimantan and commonly dubbed as the Heart of Borneo. This conservation area has a strategic function for sustenance

of life for the people of West Kalimantan. There has been an increasing amount of attention from the international community toward BKNP; this is not simply due to the originality of its ecosystems and the high diversity of its natural resources. This increased attention is also due to the fact that BKNP has become the last forest frontier in the center of Kalimantan, one of third largest islands on our planet. The importance of this to Kalimantan and conservation in Borneo was recently discussed at the Workshop on Borneo Conservation on November 3, 2003 in Singapore. This workshop was initiated by WWF-Indonesia in collaboration with WWF International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Conservation International. The attendance to this workshop included government representatives from Indonesia, and the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah.

Efforts towards the conservation of BKNP will not be sufficient if it is left just to the discretion of government, NGOs, and international agencies alone. On the contrary, it is more important to rally active participation from local communities living around the BKNP area. These local communities are strongly dependent upon the forest resources surrounding them,

and in fact cannot be separated from the total ecosystem. Therefore the role of local communities should be given more attention and optimal empowerment in order to achieve a successful balance of environmental and economic welfare of the community and region as a whole. In natural resource conservation the local community should not be treated as an object of development, but should be given an equal role in making decisions, determining steps, mechanism, and procedures towards effective management.

After successful collaborations have been developed between the Park management unit, local communities and other stakeholders, we expect the burden that falls on the governments shoulder will be much lighter, and in turn the pressure on natural resources will also diminish. Hence the realization of the vision and mission of conservation will also proceed smoothly. We hope that experiences learned in the field, together with working partnerships of empowerment for the local communities surrounding BKNP, can all be used as useful material and information to exchange with other stakeholders.

Soewartono

Head of BKNP Management Unit



Swidden field activity in BKNP buffer zone areas. (WWF Doc.)

Proceed with Caution



Andreas Yan Lanting (WWF Doc.)

Kapuas Hulu Regency is located in the easternmost part of West Kalimantan Province. This regency encompasses the upper end of the Kapuas River which divides West Kalimantan through the middle, hence has acquired the popular name of "Land of Uncak 'Kapuas."

Because this Regency is situated in the backwaters of the Kapuas River, transportation continues to become the main focus of concern for the Regency government, although the geographical location of this

regency is quite strategic given the existing northern access road which links the regency to the neighboring state of Sarawak, Malaysia only 6 hours by road from Putussibau².

The people of Kapuas Hulu Regency have been familiar with the existence of the National Park, BKNP, particularly the *Adat* communities who live close or within its borders. We can fairly state that these communities have a positive view toward WWF and the National Park Management Unit of BK who have an office in the Regency's capital city of Putussibau.

This acceptance from the community did not take place instantly, but only after the intensive socialization process conducted by WWF Indonesia and the National Park management unit of BKNP. This process took place through various events such as; Workshops in Putussibau and surrounding areas and also workshops conducted in the various *Dusuns*³ and *Kampungs*⁴ where the communities live.

Eventually the *Adat* communities came to understand that both WWF and the National Park management unit of BKNP have a genuine intention to develop a concept and programs for natural resource conservation in the Kapuas Hulu regency. These intentions are congruent with the communities' ideals of maintaining a harmonious relationship with their natural environment. In fact, the conservation efforts of WWF and the National Park management unit of BKNP bring much happiness to these

communities, because it is proof that there are still people who care about natural resource conservation.

Furthermore, the leadership Council of Dayak Customs in Kapuas Hulu has supported the various conservation efforts of both of these organizations. This support came particularly after learning the conservation program targets that BKNP and WWF wished to achieve. But I need to say honestly, that there are some facts from the field that show how the implementation of these targets of BKNP and of WWF is not yet optimal. For example, recently it is apparent that there is an extensive amount of people now engaged in the exploitation of forest resources, very possibly within the boundaries of conservation areas and BK National Park.

These facts will affect the trust that has already been developed in the communities. The trust and appreciation of the local communities towards BKNP and WWF is somewhat fading because both institutions seem unable to optimally implement their conservation mission. But I also realize, that these shortcomings happen, not because of ineptness or inability within these organizations, but due to external forces beyond the control or authority of either institution. For example, issues pertaining to the existence of powerful individuals acting for the various lucrative timber operations. Often these individuals are driven only by personal gain or the interest of short-term political agendas.

Although these issues may annoy us, there are also other important matters that *The Council of Dayak Customs* wish to bring forward, among a few in relation to the development of the conservation program:

- a. The extent of BKNP and total conservation areas in Kapuas Hulu Regency covers, more or less, 932.000 ha or 41,2% of the entire land belonging to the regency. This is clearly an economic disadvantage for the Kapuas Hulu Regency. I have not seen sufficient concern from the central government or the international community toward this territory which they coin as the "global lung". Not just monetary compensation to support a region that has set aside a majority of their territory for conservation purposes, but also assistance must be given regarding the security and control of this region in a consistent manner. Conservation in policy does nothing if not enforced.
- b. In sociological terms, the majority of communities in the Kapuas Hulu regency still practice shifting cultivation. This will inevitably lead to forest degradation if allowed to continue at these population levels and if no alternatives are presented.



Discussing local initiatives through community workshop. (WWF Doc.)

- c. Up till now, we still find in the field an abundance of unsustainable and exploitative activities in the form of logging, mining, and large-scale fish harvesting. Such phenomena's are a demonstration of local limitations in knowledge and skills for innovative, sustainable extraction of natural resources and permanent agricultural. Therefore the government of Kapuas Hulu should encourage community empowerment in the form of vocational training, courses, or training in sustainable agricultural practices. This is particularly needed in

the communities that live in and around the conservation areas. We have to think about how to provide sufficient employment and sufficient opportunities for local prosperity, while continuing to preserve the social, cultural, and ecological integrity of the region.

Lack of personnel, equipment, and funding will certainly affect the success of natural resource conservation efforts. This constraint can be seen in the weakening of supervision or control against environmentally destructive activities by irresponsible individuals. In this respect, it is thought better if youth from the surrounding areas are recruited as special field guards. If this can be realized it would be very beneficial to conservation efforts since local people are very familiar with their own region, culture, and social life. This method of supervision or patrolling can reach a much higher level of effectiveness. Similar requests have been proposed by community members when WWF has conducted activities in their area.

Andreas Yan Lanting

Chief Council of Dayak Customs, Kapuas Hulu Regency

Cross Ethnic Conservation



Rudi Zapariza (WWF Doc.)

The communities who live in and around BKNP can be divided anthropologically into several different ethnic groups. These communities include; the Punan Hovongan, Hovorit, Hovo'Ung, Kereho, Langau, Keriau, Bukat, Kantu', Iban, Tamambaloh, Kayan, Taman, Aoheng, and Malay. Each of these community groups possesses various social and cultural characteristics resulting from their interactions with the environment.

In the context of environmental conservation, this diversity of socio-cultural traits can be very strategic. Each an integral element and source for consideration in developing program support and partnerships with the community. The cultural characteristics in each of these individual communities can have an influence on each community's response to changes or external influences.

Examples of this can be found in regard to the management of natural resources among the communities that live primarily in and around the forest. These communities have historically lived in the forest and relied on traditional values of conservation as a basis for their culture. Recently there has been a shift in attitudes regarding the management of natural resources. The decline of cultural values and community solidarity has led many within the community to shift towards more individual, consumptive or opportunistic values. This in turn, has led many community members

to become much more dependent upon economic resources from outside the community. This leads to an increased vulnerability to exploitation from outside parties who use this dependency to their advantage.

Considering these facts, there is a need for a collective resuscitation of community traditions and values. This movement is needed to re-establish the socio-cultural system that traditionally respects the wise-use of resources and sustainable values. In this case, conservation is treated equally with efforts to revitalize traditional values and local community organizations such as traditional *Adat* institutions.

A conservation approach that has respect for cultural and ethnic diversity helps the sustainable economic development of community initiatives. If these efforts are pursuant to the typology and values within each community, there is significant improvement in family income along with awareness in the value of sustainable development.

Rudi Zapariza

Coordinator for BKNP Buffer Zone Development
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project

PROCEED TOGETHER IN EQUAL ROLES



Training of community organizer (CO), WWF Indonesia, Sanggau 2001 (WWF Doc.)

The change in status of Betung Kerihun from a strict Nature Reserve to a National Park in 1995 was deemed necessary to accommodate the social and economic life of the local communities that also live in this area. Before this area was designated nationally as a conservation area, it was occupied by several local communities generally of Dayak ethnic descent. These communities have historically lived in and around this area, and for generations have depended on its natural resources.

According to Regulation No.5 Year 1990 on *Conservation of Natural Resources and It's Ecosystems*, a National Park is established to achieve three objectives;

- (1) The protection of life support systems
- (2) The preservation of plant and wildlife diversity and their ecosystems
- (3) The sustainable exploitation of natural resources and it's ecosystems to ensure prosperity for the surrounding communities.

This is very different from the previous designation of a strict Nature Reserve which is established as a natural monument, solely for the protection and preservation of natural diversity. In the case of a Nature Reserve most human activity is restricted to activities of protection, preservation and research.

To support the management of Betung Kerihun with the new status of National Park a series of activities were conducted from 1995-1999 with the funding support of ITTO. These activities included the early socialization of park policies to the local communities, the building of a database of base line surveys, and finally the compilation of a 25 Year Management Plan of the National Park (Management Plan of Betung Kerihun National Park Year 1999-2024 or MP-BKNP for short).

ITTO's funding commitment to support and implement this management plan for BKNP still continues. This support was extended particularly after an agreement was reached between BKNP, and the adjacent Malaysian conservation areas of *Batang Ai National Park (BANP)*, and *Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS)* in Sarawak. Funding support is for the development of all three as a trans-boundary conservation area that combines the efforts of both countries.





Extraction of Sago by Bukat people, utilization of natural resources. (WWF Doc.)

ITTO's commitment to support phase II for BKNP was realized September 2001 with a project entitled "The Implementation of a Community Based Trans-Boundary Management Plan for Betung Kerihun National Park (MP-BKNP)". In phase II, as in phase I, WWF-Indonesia again was entrusted as the Project Executants in assisting The Betung Kerihun National Park Unit.

This is an 800,000ha National Park and Implementation of the MP-BKNP was difficult to execute initially, especially the part that requires community involvement. Many of these difficulties were exasperated by delays in the establishment of the Official National Park Management Unit. It wasn't until as late as 1998 that BKNP officially had a Technical Executant Unit (*Unit Pelaksana Teknis, UPT*). This means that institutionally, the necessary management parties are still very much at an adjustment stage. By 1998 the crucial process of information transfer had just begun to be put into effect. This process was also greatly hindered by the expansive area and lack of sufficient human resources or infrastructures, hindered so much that the actual transfer of the Management Plan for BKNP wasn't conducted until 1999. As a result of these hindrances and delays, the institutional functions, roles and processes are still far from optimized. This has a negative effect on all aspects of management, development, and sustainable use of the area. This condition has worsened since the completion of Phase 1 of the ITTO funded project (1995-1999).

Especially detrimental to management efforts was the gap in funding from the completion of phase 1 in 1999 to the start of funding for phase II in 2001. In 2001 WWF-Indonesia was again appointed as the working partner to assist in the implementation of MP-BKNP. Unfortunately, during the period of 1999-2001, interactions with local communities in and around the park regarding the management of BKNP was very limited.

During this same time period there were also the external factors from the dramatic political transformation taking place throughout the whole country. Activities associated with a new style of governance began, as the government started introducing policies of local autonomy. Unfortunately in practice these policies are often marred by misinterpretation. This political turmoil was further complicated by a devastating economic crisis.

The accumulation of the above problems led to a loss of control and momentum from the various initiatives made in the past. Most results from previous efforts to promote community involvement in the management of natural resources were lost.

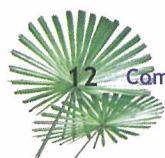
This can be observed by the increased occurrences of:

- (i) Massive exploitation of forest resources by community members without any visible regard to sustainability principles and existing regulations;
- (ii) Diminishing of the cultural and social networking that traditionally had the ability to act as a control mechanism in natural resource management through traditional customs of community (*Adat*) institutions;
- (iii) A dramatic shift from traditional wisdom and values to that of materialistic consumerism.

All of these factors have weakened community solidarity. This deterioration in solidarity greatly limits the bargaining position of the community and compromises their ability to collectively engage in decision-making. This has direct negative consequences to the successful Implementation of a Community Based Trans-



Practice in searching and development of local initiatives, CO training, WWF Indonesia, Ponti Tapau, Sanggau 2001. (WWF Doc.)





Training in Taxonomy for local NGOs and government official, NangaMentibat, Kapuas Hulu, 2001. (WWF Doc.)

Boundary Management Plan for Betung Kerihun National Park. In response to this issue the BKNP Management unit, along with WWF-Indonesia felt it necessary to conduct a Community Empowerment (CE) program. The particular goals of this program are to improve understanding and awareness in the importance of sustainable natural resource management, and to promote traditional values of conservation.

Objectives

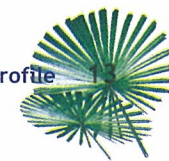
The Community Empowerment focus is to strengthen the communities position; institutionally, socially and economically in relation to the management of natural resources. To promote sustainable principles of natural resource management based on the traditional values of local culture. This is also an effort to increase sustainable economic opportunities and local potential. This is done through the establishment of small business ventures, the reinforcement and empowerment of local institutions, and the reinforcement of values in gender equivalency.

Method

As a development strategy, one community organizer (CO) is placed in each of the 5 Watersheds of BKNP, i.e. Watersheds of Embaloh, Apalin, Sibau, Mendalam, and Kapuas. The watershed approach is in line with the stipulations outlined by the regional division of BKNP management. The watershed approach is also optimal due to the spatial distribution of community settlements along the rivers. To facilitate the socialization process in the respective communities, the COs are recruited locally and selected based upon their previous experience in advising socioeconomic activities.

The various COs are assigned to bring about and develop local initiatives based on community needs. They also play an important role as information bridges among the stakeholders involved in the development of the community initiatives and management of the program area. The strategic approach of the COs is to identify and engage the key figures or groups in the community. Then improve these participants' ability to be community advocates, promote community activities and campaign for workable local initiatives. Sufficient preparation is needed for a smooth of entry of the COs and to provide for optimal success of the COs in conducting this advisory assignment.

Community empowerment activities by, MP-BKNP and WWF-Indonesia patiently continue. Continual efforts are made to try to convince the communities that BKNP is an important asset for the future and its conservation needs to be pursued together. But it must be realized, that without evidence or efforts to prove that BKNP, as a conservation area, is able to support the area economically, the communities' enthusiasm or involvement in its conservation or management will be difficult to accomplish.



Strengthening Identity through Cultural Art

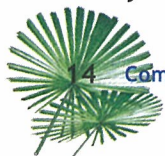


A. Kasim (WWF Doc.)

"So far during the community support process, there are some interesting issues to be noted. For example, the communities of Embaloh Hulu were very enthusiastic to study the issues surrounding natural resource management.

This enthusiasm could be interpreted as a support for the existence and conservation of BKNP. This support is meaningless, unless followed with efforts to develop an open access

exchange of information among the related parties, especially for the planning process and program implementation of both countries that border the area around BKNP. An Important aspect that needs to be noticed regarding the management of BKNP is the existence of the two ethnics (Tamambaloh and Iban), both of these communities need to be equally involved so that the benefit of BKNP can be perceived by the society as a whole."



Nature and Culture Tourism Destinations

The Embaloh Watershed is situated at the west side of BKNP. Along this Watershed live the communities of the Tamambaloh and Iban ethnic groups. Most of the Tamambaloh communities inhabit the downstream areas expanding from the villages of Mataso, Belimbis, Pinjawan, Banua Martinus, Banua Ujung, Paat, up to the village of Ulak Pauk. The Iban Communities inhabit the upstream areas in the villages of Sadap and Kalayam.

When this area was designated to be facilitated as a watershed it encompassed four governmentally designated village conglomerates or *Desa's*. These 4 *Desa's* is the lumping together of 12 smaller traditional villages (kampungs). The total population for this area consists of 3,430 people. This Area, due to its beauty, was selected as the development area for nature tourism, and to act as an entrance to the western area of BKNP. This region was considered strategic, first of all because of its road access and close proximity to the Malaysian border. The second reason is because of the high level of biodiversity in flora and fauna. The third reason is due to the unique cultural attractions of the Dayak Iban and Tamambaloh communities. These two communities are recognized worldwide, particularly through the two international events, of the 1997 ITTO Borneo Biodiversity Expedition (IBBE) and 2002 International Forestry Student Symposium (IFSS).



Tamambaloh Traditional Dress. (WWF Doc.)



Participants of IFSS. (WWF Doc.)

Both of these ethnic communities that reside in the region of Embaloh have a strong interaction with their forest environment. These interactions have formed a strong heritage of traditions trusted to have noble values. For example, the tradition of the Tamambaloh, still practiced today, is a traditional religious ceremony after harvest time (*pameole beo*). The Dayak Iban communities celebrate a similar ceremony called *gawai* every year on June 1st. Traditional representations from these two ethnic groups are typically shown in traditional dances, an oral tradition, the beauty of the *karawit* tattoo¹, traditional *Adat* dress, cultural accessories, and traditional ceremonial processions full of symbolic meanings.



Traditional weaving (*tenun ikat*), Iban. Embaloh Hulu (WWF Doc.)

Conservation and Livelihood

The economic status of these communities is still considered pretty low, due to traditional business patterns and the emphasis on subsistence farming. This is a cyclical pattern exasperated by low education and limitation in modern skills.

The growing of crops has been the practice of local people for generations. This is not a choice but mainly a consequence of environmental and geographical factors. Many communities' re-cultivate arable farms after abandoned for many years, harvest a variety of forest fruits such as *Durian* (*Durio* sp.), *Cempedak* (*Artocarpus integer*), and many others. These communities also cultivate rubber tree plantations, and breed livestock. To supplement their families nutrition, they often fish in the Embaloh River and hunt in the protected forest areas.

Today, the main method used by these communities to earn cash money is through the exploitation of natural resources, i.e. logging. This business has been very lucrative for many years. Many sawmills were built on behalf of cooperatives belonging to the community, and this process involved many parties. The revenue generated from the sale of wood was used for developing settlements, the purchasing of home appliances, vehicles, in trade, and for acquiring formal education for their children. The rest was saved in the Credit Union as security measures to protect them from further misfortune.

This exploitative access to natural resources taking place in the region of the Embaloh River has created numerous problems, especially regarding the sustainable management of natural resources. This exploitation of resources has created much disharmony and conflict between the two dominant ethnic groups residing in the Embaloh Watershed. This tension emerged out of mutual suspicion between the two ethnic communities and a crisis of mistrust against relevant government institutions. This condition was particularly triggered by a regulation released by the local government of Kapuas Hulu Regency allowing for small, locally owned timber operations of 100 Ha *HPHH*. These licenses were issued in a number of areas situated in the Embaloh watershed region. This economic emphasis on the exploitation of timber for profit does not adhere to the principles of sustainable



Guntul logyard, Embaloh Hulu, exit corridor forest cutting in Gunung Betung, BKNP. (WWF Forest Doc.)



natural resource management. This policy had many devastating impacts that could clearly be seen in the field and the distribution of benefit as opposed to cost were not equal for the people living around the forest. This condition triggered horizontal conflicts between villages that eventually disintegrated into conflict among ethnic groups. As an indirect result, such conditions spilled over and created a socio-cultural resistance against conservation programs associated with the BKNP area.

This emphasis on exploitation in the management of natural resources indirectly causes a further weakening and neglect of the existing traditional knowledge. The community empowerment approach for the management of natural resources has already started to change the outlook of these two ethnic groups. The spirit of environmental respect and conservation is strong in the traditions of each community. If there is Involvement of community leaders and *Adat* institutions in outright exploitation of natural resources this reflects poorly on the historic *Adat* institutions themselves. This reflects poorly on the community as a whole. This in turn threatens the very fabric of the community and the reputation of customary

laws (*Hukum Adat*²) and institutions (*Adat Istiadat*³). As a result tension between community groups progressively increased.

Limited Socialization and Employment

There is still a limited distribution of Information and knowledge concerning concepts of sustainable natural resource management. Information regarding the long-term implications of exploitation or the importance of preservation for the society as a whole is still very limited. As a result, practices of natural resource exploitation in protected forest areas such as BKNP, and traditional conservation

areas of *Adat* forest are sometimes given little resistance.

Another problem emerging in the field is associated with the boundaries of the conservation areas. Many people in the local communities do not recognize the official boundaries between the National Park and their traditional *Adat* regions. Therefore, there is a lack of clarity dividing community rights and obligations regarding the management of the area established as a National conservation area. Such controversy creates a condition in which every effort at conservation law reinforcement by BKNP was in a collision course with



Selfhelp maize garden, Iban people, Sadap, Buffer Zone BKNP. (WWF Doc.)

community perception. In the end, this leads to an unfair impression and bad image for BKNP in the community's opinion. Many issues stem from issues of conservation boundaries that conflict with traditional boundaries. Among many community members there is the view that TNBK management policies have no jurisdiction. Conservation laws became unpopular, and even considered in some cases incompatible with the aspirations of the community.

In addition to the limitations of economic prosperity in subsistence farming, other options were difficult to create. This is often due to the limitations to trade caused by poor infrastructure, lack of central markets, transportation and production facilities, along with limits in knowledge and skills of the community. This condition limits job growth around villages, as of now the most prominent job opportunist is only supplied through the illegal exploitation of forest resources in conservation areas such as BKNP. Meanwhile, opportunities for employment in conservation management of BKNP or in such activities related to eco- tourism are not yet visible in the short-range.

Mobile Cinema

During the BKNP socialization process with the identification of issues and potentials in other Watersheds, the COs of Embaloh also conducted several meetings alternated with wide screen film shows. These were attended by representatives of villages situated around the BKNP area. The theme of these films were chosen accordingly to encourage the need for conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources in West Kalimantan. Other films were shown concerning conservation activities conducted by WWF-Indonesia in other Watersheds around BKNP. This was done to strengthen understanding about local initiatives vital to developing a formula and principle for sustainable natural resources in their village.

Tour Guide Training and Handicraft Groups

Learning from the process above, it is realized that there is a need to improve community knowledge concerning interpretation and field guiding for ecotourism development. Motivation to improve these skills is growing, especially after this area was chosen to host the various activities at the international level, namely the

International Forestry Student Symposium (IFSS) in September 2002. The project facilitated training for tour guides and site interpretation for community representatives and staff of BKNP. These activities were preformed together with committee members of IFSS 2002 and the BKNP Management Unit.

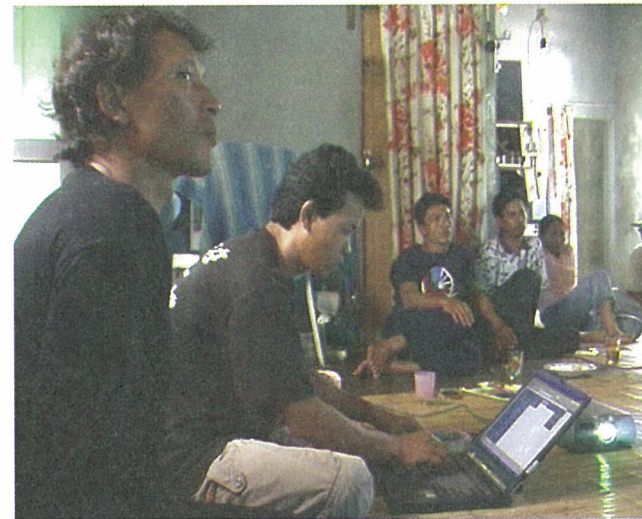
Another support activity was also conducted to establish a community group of workers in weaving rattan and *Bemban* (*Donax* sp.) matting. In IFSS 2002, these products from the communities were displayed and sold to the IFSS participants who visited the traditional long house in *Sadap* village.

Bounding Song

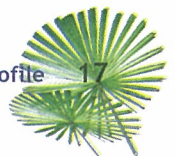
Initially limited resources of the BKNP management unit confined the socialization and development focus of the MP-BKNP to only the villages closest to the National Park. It was not initially realized that in the future, this practice could generate jealousy among the other villages in the BKNP area. As a result resistance started to emerge regarding any program related to the development of BKNP. This conflict culminated in the burning of the BKNP post of *Karangan Labo* just one week after hosting the IFSS 2002 conference.

According to the result of the investigation into the incidence it was attributed to this accumulation of perceived feelings of unequal treatment.

Indirectly this incidence has created significant strain on the relationship between the COs and the community in this area. In order to alleviate this



Recording Tamambaloh traditional music, Aruwe Gallery. (WWF Doc.)





Signing of agreement between WWF and Aruwe Gallery. (WWF Doc.)

the community.

The development of the above idea in reanimating local culture through songs and documentation of the *Tamambaloh* community was in collaboration with *Aruwe* Gallery, and received sufficient enthusiastic responses from various circles. Realizing the importance of this endeavor, various circles within the *Tamambaloh* ethnic groups suggested that this process be expanded to include the wider *Tamambaloh* communities and to embrace a wider and deeper study of the *Tamambaloh* culture in general. As follow-up, a workshop was conducted to explore further the cultural heritage of the *Tamambaloh* culture and involved the entire community. Representatives included customary leaders, religious leaders, teachers, local cultural leaders, youth, and interested people. These activities were also joined by the Tourism and Cultural Agency Of the Kapuas Hulu Regency.

Until this time, the activity has completed the process of musical arrangement, voice recording and plans to continue with still photography. In the long run we hope this documentation effort will strengthen the gallery's capacity to develop cultural heritage in support of tourism activities, and become an effective fundraising medium.

Keeping the Momentum

One of the positive indicators of healthy communication between the project organizer of BKNP and the community is shown through enthusiasm and participation. The workshop held at the beginning of 2003, regarding the National Park boundaries,

problem the COs were quick to initiate additional activities in this area. This condition forced the project to think of other ways to be accepted by the community. After intensive discussions between CO and a few community representatives, it was agreed that one particular cultural aspect to be developed is the music and traditional songs unique to the local culture of



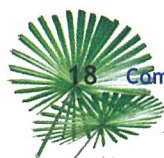
Community Workshop in Embaloh Watershed area. (WWF Doc.)

was met with enthusiasm and intense attendance of the communities from the *Embaloh* Watershed. A fundamental result from this workshop was achieved in a consensus on National Park management, and mutual agreements between government, community, and BKNP Management Unit representatives concerning National Park boundaries. The success of this consensus thus far should be guarded closely through a continual socialization process of the BKNP program and community participation. A continual and more intensive support program is still needed until the communities are capable to develop independently.

Aloysius Kasim

Community Organizer Embaloh Watershed

WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project



If All the Forest is Gone



Stefanus (WWF Doc.)

"Working in a community flooded with problems is not an easy matter. The duties assigned by WWF field officers or Community Organizers (COs) continually try to invite community members to open their minds and see their future with their own eyes. What would happen to the life of the community if all the forests are used up, rivers full of mud, farm lands no longer fertile, limited animals to hunt, fish difficult to be catch, and a community that no longer care for each other.

During such discussions, if we say "don't!" log the forest, the community frequently reply's with the question "what economic alternatives can you offer as an alternative to logging?" Some are already aware that it is impossible for the community to sustainably depend on wood alone. If all the wood were used up, how much more does the community have to suffer before they learn about the wood business? Trying to bring about understanding through ex-changing views in this way and learning from experiences through discussions is very effective. Classroom teaching, and media presentations are all much more effective then trying to simply focus on enforcement or outright prohibition.

The Cultural Heritage of Kapuas Hulu

Apalin River is a tributary of the Kapuas River with it's estuary in the District capital of Nanga Embaloh. It is the economic growth center of the Embaloh Hilir District. The Apalin River stretches northward to the border of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. This river runs through the tropical rain forests of the BKNP area dubbed *The Heart of Borneo*.

Within the Apalin Watershed, just outside the border of BKNP are six sub-villages (*dusun*); *Nanga Nyabau, Tanjung Kerja, Banua Tengah, Lauk I, Lauk II and Sei Uluk Apalin*. The total population of these 6 Dusun is 2,079 people.

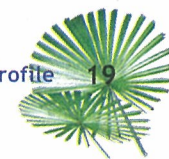
In the management plan for BKNP (MP-BKNP) the Apalin Watershed is designated as the middle entrance gate to BKNP and is outlined for a data and information center, natural history museum, plantation development, and for the various cultural and natural diversity features of Uncak kapuas (*kebun, budaya dan keaneka ragaman hayati, bundayati*). There is a traditional Dayak longhouse here believed to be the oldest in Kapuas Hulu. Based on information provided by various competent sources, this long house is estimated to be more than 200 years old.

The presence of this long house attracted anthropologist to come to Apalin from the University of Indonesia. As the result of their study the long house was established as one of the study sites for Dayak culture.

Access Starts to Open

In general, up until now, the socioeconomic condition of the community in the Apalin region is still legging behind. This is caused by a combination of geographical factors characterized by unfertile land, and limited skills or human resources for managing the natural resources.

Most people in the community depend on traditional swidden¹ agricultural. Every potential of natural resources are exploited extensively due to limited skills or human resources. This is exasperated by inadequate attention from the government or related institutions.





A glance of kampung Tanjung Kerja, Buffer Zone BKNP. (WWF Doc.)

Opening community involvement to the management of natural resources through government policies such as the promotion of small local timber operations of 100 Ha and open access to Forest Exploitation Rights of (*Hak Pengelolaan Hutan* or *HPH 100 HA*) momentarily improved the socioeconomic condition of parts of the community. Timber was obtained through exploitation and collection of wood from the forest either personally or collectively.

Unfortunately, such open access and local management of natural resources is not accompanied or reinforced with concepts or community awareness concerning sustainability. This fact can be observed by the proliferation of illegal logging that followed the government policy of local forest management in the 100 Ha HPH

systems. The forest exploitation activities were not only happening in the communities traditionally designated conservation areas of *Adat* forests, but also spread to National Parks and protected forest areas.

The above issues become progressively worse and pose a heavy burden for the successful management of BKNP. Refusal or objections are often waged by part of the community disputing the National Park boundaries. They repeatedly ask for a policy review regarding the presence of BKNP or ask that BKNP discuss boundary issues with the community.

The Importance of Local Institutions

With the construction of the northern by-pass road through the Apalin River region, community interactions with the external world greatly increased. This change indirectly influenced the community to shift their views away from their traditional methods of natural resource management. As a result, the traditional control systems of *Adat* were weakened. Thereby, the historically sustainable *Adat* order was no longer the singular base for every decision concerning natural resource management. Implications from this are a decrease in community respect toward the traditional *Adat* laws and traditional sanctions.

The Importance of Local Economy Bargaining Positions

Poor skills, limited human resources and limited infrastructures to support economic activities result in limited alternatives or job opportunities to improve family income. These factors affect the success of any economic activities pursued by the community. Most ventures have so far been limited to simple, small-scale livestock breeding, such as pigs, chickens, and cows. Most of the products obtained from these economic activities are only enough to fulfill very basic sustenance, with little surplus left that can be sold in the local markets for profit. This causes limitations to prosperity for the communities in the Apalin Watershed.

Healthy Living is Still a Luxury

In addition to issues related to natural resource management, other community issues came to the attention of COs working in this Watershed area.

There was an increased awareness and understanding of the correlation between improving the quality of life and sustaining the quality of the environment. Education efforts through media were expected to spread new values for a better life but failed to reach optimal results due to poor arrangements. One of the most apparent issues is poor sanitation. Bathing and toilet facilities were not available in every house; livestock were not kept in stables, and left prowling everywhere which made the environment looks dirty.

Government support in the field of health is still very limited with a lack of facilities and supporting structures or basic provisions for the communities. This condition causes the community to be more dependants upon traditional medicines, even with diseases that would be much more effectively treated with modern medicine.

Learn from the Experts

In reference to the meeting conducted by various key figures in the community, COs then map out various issues or conditions which need the most attention, such as reinforcement of group cohesiveness and collectives (farmers, fishermen), women empowerment, reinforcement of traditional *Adat* institutions



Village meeting, Tanjung Kerja, Buffer Zone BKNP (WWF Doc.)

managed by YDT in District Of Toho Hilir, Regency of Pontianak.

and technological training in the fields of agriculture and cattle breeding. As an executant to commitments with the community, WWF-Indonesia in cooperation with the NGO *Dian Tama* (YDT) facilitated 2 local people of *Dusun* Tanjung Kerja and *Dusun* Banua Tengah to participate in agriculture training and cattle breeding technology at the Integrated Development Center Of Charcoal Technology (*Pusat Pengembangan Teknologi Arang Terpadu, PPTAT*)

This training was meant to strengthen the optimal use local resources available in and around each village. This was done through activities of seedling cultivation, conservancy of crops, eradication of pest, composting and the use of manure as a natural fertilizer.

In this training, some community representatives of other Watersheds were also involved, in the hopes of using these activities to increase the exchange of information and learning.



Training on organic farming in Siantan. (WWF Doc.)

Strengthening Oneself in Group Dynamics

After returning from the training, the COs along with the two participants presented the training results at meetings held in each village (*Dusun*). The impact of this socialization process is emerging with positive responses from various villages (*Dusun*). In August 2003 three groups of vegetable farmers were formed in Banua Tengah, two groups in Tanjung Kerja and Nanga Nyabau.

Sugar cane traditional drink, Dusun Nyabau, buffer zone, BKNP. (WWF Doc.)



A fishermen group was formed in Banua Tengah, and one handicraft workers group in Nanga Nyabau and Tanjung Kerja. One group in Uluk Apalin River consisted of house wives and members of Pendidikan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Education).

From Local Initiative to Micro-enterprise

Presently, the project to bring about alternatives for family income is still in the initial phase of group formation. The next process is to strengthen the local initiative to join economic viable activities in the form of micro-enterprises. This part of the program is directed towards reinforcement of group member capacities in the area of business management and product marketing.

Some important notes which should be brought to the forefront regarding the activities through the project COs is the importance of understanding the problems specific to each community. Many communities suffer from a low self-image and see their livelihood as farmers to denote a marginal community. There is profound importance in developing solidarity, not rivalry between communities. There is an obvious need to raise an understanding of community rights and obligations. The importance in the role of a CO as a mediator for the community in negotiating with

concerned parties. There is a need for education to strengthen knowledge, understanding and the bargaining position of each community. There is a need to teach communities about current laws and policies concerning community rights and obligations to the sustainable management of natural resources.

Stefanus

*Community Organizer Apalin Watershed,
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project*



(Photo : WWF Doc.)



Starting from Small Things



Zulkifli (WWF Doc.)

"At this time, chopping wood and clearing the forest have become the sole lucrative opportunity available to local communities. Although this is accepted reluctantly by most in the communities this activity can produce cash quickly. With such cash every desire for "good living" can be immediately fulfilled. The activity slowly pushed away the traditional wisdom of conservation and sustainability. Traditional wisdom was then replaced with a focus on short-term gains irrespective of continued benefit.

Principles of sustainable forestry and sound management spoken by the government are often greeted cynically by some local communities, because of the lack in government support for development in their region. Furthermore, the communities are frequently witnesses to the inconsistency in the enforcement of rules or regulations regarding natural resource exploitation. Enforcement measures are often overlooked depending on the parties involved. Among the many direct impacts felt by the community, were difficulties in finding hunting areas. These areas have diminished due to the exploitative hunting practices of loggers and extensive deforestation. This is often followed by exploitative fish harvesting practices and the unsustainable methods of fishing through poison and electrocution.

The desire to maintain the integrity of the Adat traditional forest areas, in fact, is still strong in the hearts of the community, but policy support at the local level such as the enforcement of customary laws (*hukum Adat*) is not yet able to successfully address these problems. Therefore, one of the important steps is an agenda for community support is to conduct activities for the empowerment of local institutions and the reinforcement of traditional laws (*hukum Adat*). This must be followed with the increase in local potentials for income alternatives."



(Photo : WWF Doc.)



Truly Exotic

Sibau Watershed is in the central part of BKNP, with a rich natural diversity of flora and fauna. Sibau River up until now still keeps a mystery concerning the existence of two species of crocodiles, namely the frog crocodile (*Crocodilus porosus*) and the snout crocodile (*Tomystoma schagelii*).



Beautiful Landscape. (WWF Doc.)

This area also is usually utilized by the local community as their gateway into the region of Sarawak, Malaysia to look for jobs or buy supplies to support their daily activities such as chainsaws, boat engines, electronic goods, etc.

Sibau River has much potential as a natural tourist destination. Mount Lawit, for example, is the highest mountain in West Kalimantan and is often visited by researchers or nature lovers. In addition it holds the beauty of several waterfalls in various places and salt springs (sepan)



Tomystoma schagelii, one of crocodile species in Sibau Watershed, captured by local peoples on their settlement areas. (WWF Doc.)

ideal for wildlife viewing, various animals visit these salt springs to drink during the dry season.

Around the border of BKNP, there are several well traditionally protected *Adat* forests such as in the community of Nanga Potan. A small population of orangutans still lives in this forest area. In view of the increased popularity of ecotourism, WWF-Indonesia wish to develop this area as a tourist destinations within the BKNP area. Through intensive communications, the community of Potan agreed to cooperate in making this area a tourist destination and made a commitment to try and preserve the integrity of this forest ecosystem.

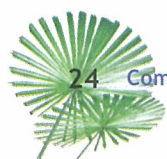
Harmony on the Behalf of Culture

A variety of ethnic groups live along the rivers in the Sibau Watershed. The *Orang Kantu'* community lives upstream near the boundary of BKNP. In the *Dusun* of Nanga Potan about 5 families make up the Bukats community who are the aborigin of Nanga Potan. Down-stream of Nanga Potan there is the *Dusun* of Tanjung Lasa. In this region live Orang Taman and Malay communities. While further downstream in the Dusun Tunjung Pandan of *Desa* Sibau Hulu there are 3 ethnic groups, namely the Tamans, Ibans, and Malays. The total population of the Sibau watershed is 3,219 people.

Most of the ethnic groups that live within the Sibau



Traditional healing, Nanga Potan. (WWF Doc.)



Watershed live in harmony with nature. They hunt pigs, deer, and fish with traditional methods, and also use the forest wood rattan to make various handicrafts for their everyday life, such as mat, kitchen equipments, etc.

Communities along the Sibau River still holds there culture firmly. The traditional farming rituals for the opening harvest is always conducted with praise to the Almighty that their crops bring prosperity and that the rice planted in their fields is protected from disease and pests.

Another unique aspect to the communities of the Apalin Watershed is represented by their respect and continual use of traditional medication and the occurrence of cultural rituals still practiced up to now, from the delivery process of infants to the treatment of disease.

Fading of Traditional Wisdom

Limitations to community support systems on one end and the opening of open-access management of natural resources on the other, has lead many people in the community to leave traditional wisdom for the exploitation of natural resources.

Background factors of this process is found in the policy of HPH 100 Ha that gave license to individuals or small groups granting the right to exploit forested areas for timber, much of this land was owned in the past collectively by the Adat community. In practice there was much deviation from the expressed intent or

principle of the policy and many incidences of manipulation for personal gain followed. In a few cases, the exploitation and policy deviation was sometimes conducted by officers of the related traditional institution, *Adat* leaders, and community figures. This caused a decrease in community respect towards these traditional institutions and a weakening in the effectiveness of the traditional laws. This led to extensive, unfettered deforestation that eventually extended into protected areas, including the area of BKNP. In the end, the above issues greatly complicated attempts of the BKNP Management unit in developing or controlling the buffer zone area of the National Park.

Lessons from Self-portrait

From several meetings conducted in the villages, some ideas emerged from the community in ways to develop collective awareness.



Forest cutting in Sibau Watershed, BKNP. (WWF Forest Doc.)



Suggestions towards a series of processes to improve the community approach. Avenues for collectively rethinking the management process in order to better include local values.

As an initial process COs and members of the Campaign Team and Media Development Team conducted films in targeted Dusuns. In these activities, education films were shown to strengthen community understanding, and to urge the community to promote actions of sustainable natural resource management. After the films were shown extensive discussions were facilitated toward finding strategies in identifying problems and developing plans for their resolution.

Through this process, good results have started to emerge, as the community realizes the accumulative effect of unsustainably exploiting natural resources to the future opportunities of the region, moreover their actions impact their future. They unanimously agreed to work towards rebuilding local wisdom and sustainable natural resource management. These communities can't do this alone. They need and expect a continued support system to assist them in protecting this valuable forest resource either through further support programs by MP-BKNP or WWF-Indonesia along with other international institutions or efforts. This expectation, of course, should get the attention of various related circles concerned with sustainable natural resource management and those concerned with the sustainability of BKNP.

Women Empowerment

To follow up the film shows, it was agreed to conduct activities that strengthen community solidarity through reinforcement and empowerment of existing community groups. One of these efforts is to strengthen groups for "women's vegetable plantations". This is conducted with these considerations: first, women play important roles in sustaining family income alternatives; second, plantation activities have been conducted long enough in the form of small gardens; and third, a substantial potential market was opened with the presence of markets in Putussibau (capital city of the regency).

Based on these considerations, a vegetable cultivator group called SINAR KASIH was established in RT¹ 03 of Nanga Potan, *Dusun Tanjung Lasa of Desa Sibau Hulu*. Membership of this group consists mostly of people living in RT 03 of Nanga

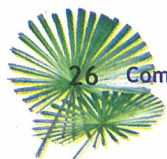


Film show and focused group discussion, Nanga Potan, buffer zone BKNP. (WWF Doc.)

Potan. Things need to be highlighted regarding this group's development as a means for communities to learn from this experience and effective ways to develop their own potentials.

After the group was formed, problems emerged, stemming from limited skills in intensive planting and product marketing. The majority of this group's skills and experience were in planting local varieties for their own consumption. The commodity they chose to develop was not a very marketable one, the market demand for vegetables in Putussibau city was high, but more frequently supplied from other regencies.

To fulfill this demand, the COs took the initiatives to invite 2 staff of the NGO Dian Tama (YDT) from Pontianak. This NGO has extensive experience with communities in the development of environmentally friendly agriculture technology. This activity was meant as an effort to transfer knowledge, and at the same time



motivated the community members in field applications of environmental solutions. Support was directly conducted on location for several days and attended by most people of RT 03 of Nanga Potan.

Introducing Organic Agriculture through Demo Plot

To support extent of the activities supported region, the COs also facilitated 2 local people of adjacent *Dusun* Tanjung Lasa to participate in the training in PPTAT-Toho. These activities were conducted due to similar community initiatives that



Vegetable garden group, Nanga Potan, buffer zone BKNP. (WWF Doc.)

came out of the community from *Dusun* Tanjung Lasa. One of them is the cultivation and replanting of rare plants that have experienced a decline in abundance, such as the tree species of *Belian* (*Eusideroxylon zwagerii*) and *Meranti* (*Shorea Sp.*). Through this activity, the participating community is expected to study not only the cultivation of plants, but also technology for pigs breeding, chickens, cows; and organic plantation. This training activity was conducted for a month and was fully supported by the Biodiversity and Inventory Division of the WWF-Indonesia – BKNP Project.

After returning from this training, the community participants together with the COs presented the training results in each village, and then followed by brief training about plantation management and the production process of organic fertilizers. A group of 17 vegetable planters was formed and named the group “Makoi”. The formation of this group directly followed the socialization process and Organic agriculture demonstrations in the community of *Dusun* Tanjung Lasa.

Playing Role in Conservation Area

In October 2003, meetings were conducted by the project staff together with community members from Tanjung Lasa as follow up to the cultivation training activities. The focus of these meetings were to collectively determine the most suitable location for the cultivation of *Belian* trees, a once abundant timber species now rare due to over harvesting.

Various important agreements were reached during this meeting. The first

was the identification of three possible cultivation locations, based on the results from a previous survey conducted. The final location chosen was an area collectively owned by the community. This choice was made based on many considerations. This area has a good microclimate, soil texture suitable for growing *Belian* and is in close proximity to the village to ease maintenance. Although the ownership status of the land was communal, in practice it was managed individually by each family according to house location. Therefore, it is assumed that the planted *Belian* seedlings would be well taken care of by each family. Final plans were made based on the commitment that the 142 *Belian* seeds would be transported in the near future.



Pig farm training, PPTAT Toho, participants from buffer zone BKNP. (WWF Doc.)

The final plan outlined that by October 14 2002 representatives of the community would come from *Dusun* Tanjung Lasa to determine a suitable time for transportation. Some programs that had been discussed internally by the community from *Dusun* Tanjung Lasa indicated a similar program developed for local species designed by WWF-Indonesia. Pertinent information regarding fruiting seasons and optimal timing for the collection of local seeds would be provided to WWF by the community and the projects were agreed to be conducted together. Among the seeds to be collected were *Tekam*, *Meranti*, *Tengkawang* and other local varieties that have substantial potentials for future developments.

Emphasizing Local Potentials

Up to the present, the process of shaping and reinforcing phases of several groups was based on the analysis conducted by the COs regarding local community potential, and the

consensus formed by the support program in new communities. Local potentials were determined by the presence/absence of skills regarding the production process, market competitiveness, and also the availability of production supplies available to the community. The focus of activities right now, are directed towards plantation development and livestock breeding. Based on present local community potential these activities were concluded to be the most suitable for strengthening community economics.

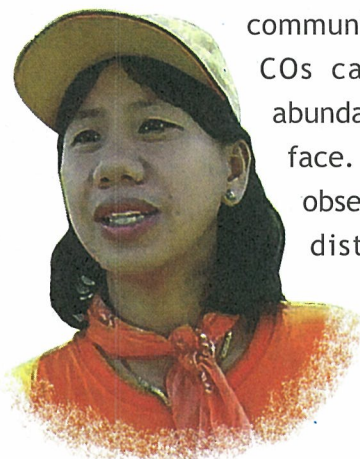
Zulkifli

Community Organizer Sibau Watershed,
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project

Marketing of vegetables by Sinar Kasih Group,
Nanga Potan, BKNP. (WWF Doc.)



One Watershed, One Vote



Rita (WWF Doc.)

"During the time of assignment as CO within the communities of the Mendalam Watershed, the COs came to realize the complexity and abundance of the problems these communities face. The complex web of factors could be observed in various forms, such as the unfair distribution of education, ethnic discontinuity, racial conflicts, great distances between villages and a lack of defense against negative external influences, especially those related to the exploitation of natural resources.

In this environment and among these issues, jealousy between villages is quick to develop. These can often emerge if there is miscommunication or limited information exchange between the COs and the respective communities regarding work distribution or schedule changes. Usually a large responsibility and workload is placed on the shoulders of the staff COs. Conflicts and issues of miscommunication significantly reduced when some of the support burdens could be relinquished to key figures in the communities who agreed to play a role of local COs.

An important observation by the COs of Mendalam Watershed was the existence of enthusiasm from elite community figures for promoting the traditional *Adat* community into a more solid institution. This fact proves that community facilitation is not just a job to bring about a blue print of community development, but rather a process capable of moving forward the whole of existing community potentials, resources, and values. This unification of various goals and results can greatly decrease the work burden and task of community development."



Increasing productivity using organic fertilizer. (WWF Doc.)



Region of Economic Growth

Mendalam River is a branch of the Kapuas River. Within the economic policy of Kapuas Hulu Regency, the Mendalam Watershed is stated as a potential economic contributor and in Regional Land use planning it becomes an area of priority for development in the Kapuas Hulu Regency.

Along the Mendalam Watershed there are eight *Dusun* and four ethnic groups have historically lived in this area. These ethnic communities consist of the Malay of Sambas, Taman, Kayan, and Bukat. In this area the Kayan community is dominant. They occupy three of the largest *Dusun*, while the Bukat community is the smallest minority with very slow population growth. All the *Dusun* in the Mendalam Watershed are in the administrative territory of Putussibau District of Kapuas Hulu Regency. The total population of this watershed is 3,265 people. The Kayaan Community is the most dominant in this area inhabiting three of the larger *Dusuns*.

In the MP-BKNP this region is declared as a tourist destination. This is due to the abundance of potential sites of attraction; the beautiful natural panoramic view, cultural attractions of the diverse ethnic groups consisting of longhouse sites in Semangkok and the biodiversity of flora and fauna of the adjacent National Park.



Income generating home garden. (WWF Doc.)

Productive but Not Optimal

In general, the socioeconomic condition of the communities in the Mendalam Watershed is still relatively low. This phenomenon is influenced by community typology, low level of education, low soil fertility, and also insufficient skills in managing optimally the

potentials of natural resources.

The great majority of the community still relies on traditional swidden or wet rice agriculture. Besides rice farming, they also have rubber tree plantations, and cultivate coffee and cocoa. The marketing of these agricultural products usually relies on local merchants and traders coming directly from the capital city Putussibau, of Kapuas Hulu Regency. Other potentials are yet to be explored or optimized due to lack of ability or skills. On the other hand, the government is slow to respond in developing local economic opportunities or potentials identified by the communities. There is a lack of support in technical assistance, capital aid, or the dissemination of information pertinent to the sustainable management of natural resources.

Local Custom as Excuse?

Community understanding concerning the sustainable management of natural resources is still inadequate. This can be seen the abundance of wasteful practices of forest exploitation with little regard to sustainability principles. Moreover, such practices are not only taking place in land owned by the community, but has also transgressed farther into the area of BKNP.

In 2002 several key figures and community leaders, acting on behalf of *Adat* institutions belonging to a particular ethnic group, openly claimed that any region,



Fresh water fishery, Dusun Tanjung Karang. (WWF Doc.)

river, or forest as property might be sold. Such claim made several communities in the lower Mendalam River very restless. This claim was later retracted by the *Adat* institutions belonging to other ethnic groups in the area.

This case stated above gives an example of how customary institutions are not completely resistant to manipulation, and can be misused as justification for destructive or exploitative



management of natural resources. Exploitation of Natural Resources is in direct contrast to the traditional values upheld by every community in the Mendalam Watershed. Extensive deforestation and illegal logging destroys animal habitat, and decimates the availability of valuable fruit trees and various other non-timber forest products. Consequences of this exploitation are the decrease in traditional hunting grounds and decrease in the abundance of non-wood forest products.

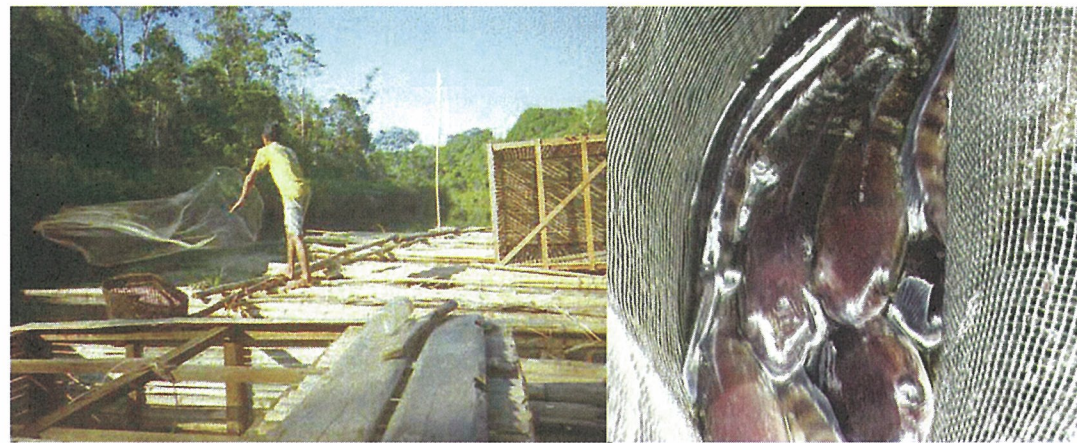
Although the destruction of natural resources has become an everyday occurrence, its existence cannot be eradicated by either authoritative government institutions or by existing customary traditional institutions. Various efforts and tactics have been tried. These efforts have ranged from the persuasive approach, socialization of sustainable principles, seminar initiatives and workshops either at the community or district level. Many efforts have included intensive contact with each traditional customary institution, but in view of the complexity of the socioeconomic problems in this area, it is quickly realized that efforts to develop effective policy still need a lot of attention and patience.

Protecting Forests That Support The Fish Species *Toman* (*Channa* sp.)

The first program of this type was conducted with a group from the Kayan community, selected because of their dominance in the Mendalam Watershed. The initial expectation was that this program would provide for a good entrance to gain trust from the other ethnic groups.

This idea first emerged when the Chief of this *Dusun* expressed concern about the future of their communal lake, which a few individuals had already started to exploit. Through his own initiative the *Dusun* Chief invited members of his community to attend a meeting in which WWF-Indonesia was also invited as an observer. From these discussions an understanding was reached that the communal area should be protected and not exploited. Community members made the suggestion that this swamp area and Lake Sadong should be managed collectively to be utilized for freshwater fishery farms.

Project focus to develop the management of Sadong Lake for fishery farms was selected due to its potential to provide benefits to the community as a whole. This management focus will also encourage the community to view and therefore

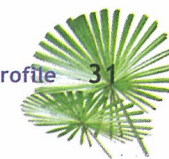


Cage breeding of toman fish (*Channa* sp.). (WWF Doc.)

protect their customary forest area as a valuable source of water for Lake Sadong and its surroundings.

WWF-Indonesia was asked to assist in facilitating the community in the management of this project area. After one year the community of *Dusun* Tanjung Karang formed an Agriculture and Fishery Farm Group and named it "*Larung Hadi*." Under the management of the Groups leadership they began to construct fish cages using simple techniques and materials.

In line with group consensus, WWF-Indonesia later assisted the group by providing small fish fry of *Toman* (*Channa* sp.) for a trial period. The consideration being that this local fish type has a sufficiently high market value. The difficulties faced by this group were mostly due to lack of skill in breeding this particular fish species. Difficulties also developed regarding food requirements. It is well known that this fish has a ferocious appetite and consumes large amounts of small fry throughout its life cycle. Other difficulties emerged due to limitations in adequate initial capital for quality to make the fish cages and the purchasing of additional fry. To overcome this problem the COs facilitated training activities in fish breeding by experienced breeders of *Toman* (*Channa* sp.) from the surrounding areas of the Putussibau District. Additionally, the CO later facilitated visits by extension agents from the Fishery of Agriculture and Irrigation Sub-Agency of Kapuas Hulu Regency.



These extension agents assisted with technical support and advice about fish breeding in general.

In the later stages, after reviewing the difficulties faced in the breeding of *Toman* (*Channa* sp.), the community group decided to switch fish species to *Patin* (*Pangasius* sp), a species with much less specific feeding requirements. The fish species *Patin* (*Pangasius* sp) can be sustained on various fruits and leaves from local plants in abundance around the lake.

Up to this point benefits from this community initiative in Lake of Sadong had only been enjoyed by the members of the recently formed "Larung Hadi" group. To maximize and extend the benefits of this community initiative further, WWF-Indonesia initiated discussions about community spatial planning for the future of Sadong Lake. The result of this was a Management Site Plan for Sadong Lake comprising various economic activities integrated in a way to all fall under the umbrella of ecotourism.

Other examples of planned economic activities that can be developed in this area is waterfront recreations, fishing, camping, restaurants, and eco-treks in the surrounding bog forest, fruit plantations, trails and canopy watching. Many positive results can already be seen from this self-supporting initiative from the community of *Dusun* Tanjung Karang the community group has already successfully installed 2 fish cages and 1 tourist boarding house.

Inspiration from Lake Sadong

In November of 2002, the CO was invited to attend a meeting by the community of *Dusun* Semangkok located downstream from *Dusun* Tanjung Karang. This meeting was aimed at strengthening and reinforcing women



Role execution by government agencies. (WWF Doc.)

groups in the community. They planned to improve upon their skills in the cultivation of vegetables.

This enthusiasm emerged after several people received information from the community of Tanjung Karang about the development of Lake Sadong. After extensive interaction between the CO and the woman's group, the group decided to organize a kitchen plantation. A schedule was then outlined for field activities for preparing a site for their plantation farm. This plan included the construction of raised beds, seed planting, fertilizer application, weeding and other crop maintenance.

The activity of this group was highly supported by the customary leadership, elite figures, and official members of the *Dusun*. In the course of forming of above mentioned group, other community groups in several surrounding *Dusun* of the Mendalam Watershed also requested facilitation from the CO to continue group formation into further stages.

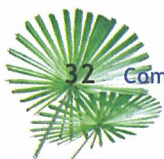
Capacity Building for Local Communities

In January of 2003, WWF invited 2 technical experts in cattle breeding as a continuation of the commitment between WWF-Indonesia and the local community. Visits from agricultural and plantation experts from Dian Tama Foundation were arranged for Semangkok village. During these visits, technical assistance in organic fertilization techniques were given to vegetable farmers from a community group named "Suli Ariung Mandalam".

W W F a l s o facilitated 2 people from Semangkok *Dusun* to participate in agricultural training and livestock



Organic farming and charcoal technology by Dian Tama Foundation in Semangkok. (WWF Doc.)



breeding. This training took place at the Center for Development of Integrated Charcoal Technology (*Pusat Pengembangan Teknologi Arang Terpadu*) in Toho Ilir District of Pontianak Regency.

Several training activities were given to the community, designed to motivate community initiatives, facilitate increased knowledge, and adequate skills, needed to improve the quality and quantity of products from farming and forest crops, livestock breeding, fishery. This is necessary to increase the communities ability to compete in the local market, particularly the nearby city of Putussibau.

Mendalam Communication Forum

After the successful facilitation of community activities in the two locations of *Dusun* Tanjung Karang and *Dusun* Semangkok, enthusiasm and trust started to rise from the elite figures in the Mendalam Watershed.

This trust was expressed in the invitation of WWF to facilitate community directives to address the various problems that threaten the sustainable management of the natural resources in the Mendalam Watershed. Many conflicts of interest and disputes regarding community boundaries had arisen between neighboring ethnic groups. Internally, an attempt to address these problems had been initiated by the *Adat* figures in the Mendalam Watershed. Due to the initial limited results reached, WWF was sought out and invited to act as a neutral mediator for the feuding community groups.

Through long and tiring process, it was finally agreed to establish an institutional forum to unify the various *Adat* communities of the Mendalam Watershed. This was presented as a strategy to strengthen the natural resource management system based on local wisdom in a participatory and fair way.

The process was started by conducting a series of meetings and workshops in the villages and in the regency capital. The goal of this process was to identify the appropriateness of the proposed *Adat* forum. The first meeting was conducted in January 2003 in *Dusun* Nanga Hovaat, a small village that directly borders BKNP. This meeting was attended by representatives from every ethnic community in the entire Mendalam Watershed. This meeting was very historic, because for the first time in 30 years ethnic communities in this area met and sat together to share and

discuss issues specific to their villages, especially about the management of natural resources.

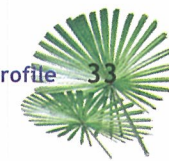
The next workshop was conducted in February of 2003 at the *Dusun* of Sungai Ting. At this workshop a working team to prepare for the birth of this institution was formed. This working team consisted of traditional *Tumenggung* leaders), elite figures, and *Adat* leaders from four ethnic groups. Government representatives in the working group consisted of members from *Bappeda*, Kapuas Hulu Regencies regional planning board and Districts government officers of Putussibau. The BKNP Management Unit and WWF acted as facilitators. The working team conducted activities to socialize the draft of the Mendalam Watershed communication forum to every *Dusun* and at the same time collected community input and suggestions to improve the proposal.

This intensive process took place over a period of three months and concluded with the official formation of this institution on April 2003. The name given was The Communication Forum for the *Adat* Communities of the Mendalam Watersheds (*Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Adat Se-DAS Mendalam*), at *Dusun* Semangkok. This was later officially recognized and confirmed by the Kapuas Hulu Regency Local Government on June 2003 in *Dusun* Nanga Sambus.

The member composition for this Communications Forum consisted of representatives from 4 sub-ethnic groups in the Mendalam Watershed. Upon agreement, the structure and organization of the forum was outlined. The structure consists of a Chairperson (*ketua umum*): Simin Machmud (Malay), secretary: Paskalis Basya (Kayan). While Chairperson I: Usaat (Bukat), Area Manager of Natural Resources; Chairperson II: Yosep Jaraan (Kayan) Area Liaison; Chairperson III: Sampe Lagi (Taman),



Signing of consensus on Communication Forum in Sambus. (WWF Doc.)



Economics and Culture; Chairperson IV: Sapri (Malay), Sustainability of Environment.

This mission and vision of this forum was to strengthen and unite the local wisdom of the Mendalam Watershed community for justice and the sustainable management of the areas natural resources.

To realize this, the forum was assigned to

1. Supervise and improve cooperation and unity among the *Adat* communities in the Mendalam Watershed. Increase community participation in related governmental institutions and NGOs.
2. Protect, supervise, and sustainably manage natural resources for fair and community wide prosperity in the Mendalam Watershed.
3. Improve condition of social, economic, and cultural of *Adat* community of Mendalam Watershed.
4. Support educational efforts and give out tuition support to improve the younger generation's ability to protect and further the use of the communities' traditional wisdom.

In relation to the management of BKNP, one of the roles of the Communication Forum is to persuade the various communities of Mendalam Watershed to come to agreeance on the official boundaries of BKNP. This was the focus of a recent workshop conducted as a cooperative effort between the BKNP Management Unit, Local Government of Kapuas Hulu, WWF and the Institution for Stabilization of Forested Areas in West Kalimantan. This Workshop was carried out on 4 September 2003 in the *Dusun* of Datah Diaan,

Growing Self Confidence

Up till now the program activities in the Mendalam Watershed have just completed the phase of initiation, formation, and reinforcement of community groups. Activities planned to follow will be directed at extending the program and improvement of resource management in the form of micro-enterprises.

A number of important notes must be brought to the attention of the project:

- (1) A more intensive socialization process of the program to the community is needed. This is necessary for establishing a more thorough understanding regarding participation, local rights, and obligations concerning the communities' role in the

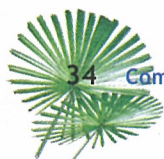


Exchange of experience on economic empowerment with LEWS staff , buffer zone. (WWF Doc.)

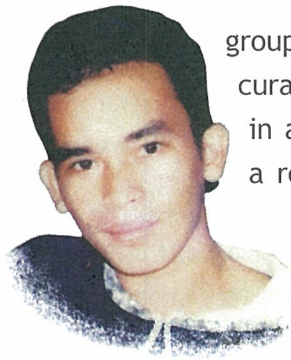
management of natural resources; (2) Efforts are needed to sufficiently engage the community when conducting negotiations and consultation from relevant parties. This is especially needed to assist the communities in identifying sustainable natural resource potentials; (3) Increased involvement of the local community is needed through meetings, training, and education in order to strengthen understanding and knowledge of the community bargaining position. This is especially needed for the younger generation who later will take on leadership roles.

Rita

Community Organizer Mendalam Watershed,
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project



Strengthening Traditional Custom of Conservation



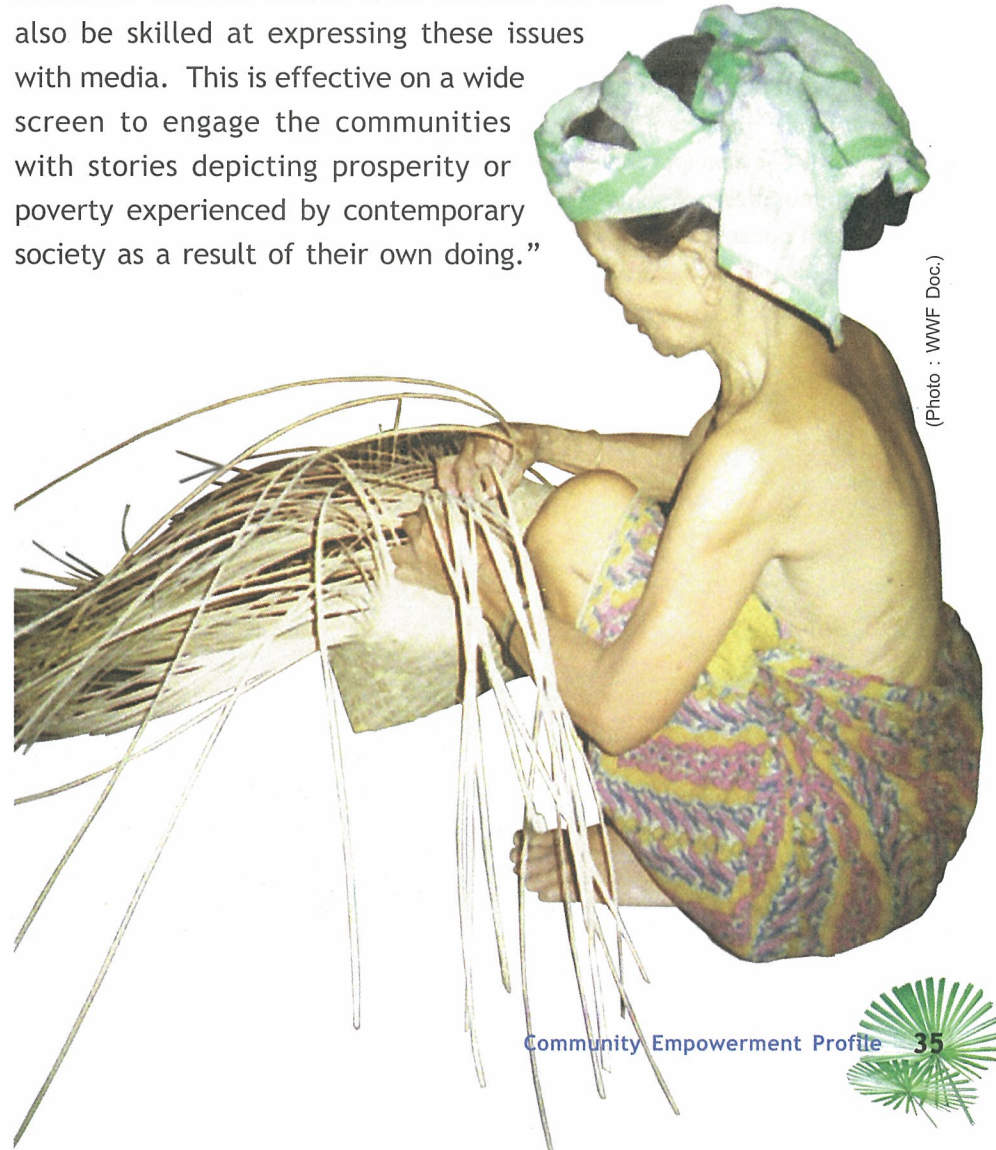
Hermas RM (WWF Doc.)

"The community has a vast expanse of grass root groups who are in constant need of current and accurate information. They are usually always honest in accepting any inflow of information. Working as a reporter in the middle of a community having a variety of principles, patterns of thought, and capacities is a very challenging job, sometimes full of hardship and sadness. An individual outside of the community group needs to be more cautious of our actions. At the same time, we

are expected to also immerse ourselves in the community. We are always challenged to be ready to respond, explain, invite, accommodate, and at the same time honestly express our views regarding community problems. For this we must be ready to deal with criticism and abandonment.

The most important thing is that we be aware of the necessities at hand before we offer our opinions regarding problems in the

community. We must be able to express to the communities the limits posed and issues faced by the community in the future if all our natural resources become scarce from misuse. We must also be skilled at expressing these issues with media. This is effective on a wide screen to engage the communities with stories depicting prosperity or poverty experienced by contemporary society as a result of their own doing."



(Photo : WWF Doc.)



The Real Adventure Destination

Communities of the Kapuas Watershed administratively fall into the District of Keadamin. This Watershed is occupied primarily by two large ethnic groups, the Dayak communities in the upstream and Malay communities in the downstream. The Dayak communities consist of several ethnic groups, and reside in the area bordering BKNP. Within the buffer zone of the park live the Bukat and Punan Dayak communities.

Accessibility to this Watershed is relatively low and more difficult compared to the other Watersheds. Further upstream the topography becomes progressively uneven and hilly, therefore making access difficult. Such conditions indirectly, affect the course of fair development and slant the distribution of direct project benefits among communities. The low level of educational attainment of most community members still poses a serious problem to the quality of human resources. From a social point of view, both community groups can exercise passiveness, inconsistency, and opportunism.



Panorama along Kapuas River. (WWF Doc.)



Dream of the future, Bukat of Matalunai. (WWF Doc.)

In contrast if we look at the potential of natural resources in the Kapuas Watershed it is one of the most solvent regions in terms of economic turnover. This is supported by the abundant natural resources of swamp forests, extensive caves as nest sites for the economically lucrative *walet* bird¹, aloe swamp forests, and the still vast amount of area of intact primary forest. The rivers

in the upper branches of the Kapuas have many rapids that can be developed into recreational sport such as canoeing and other nature adventure activities. There are many potential areas for Forest trekking in combination with areas ideal for adventure mountain climbing. The hundreds of limestone caves found in this area are also ideal sites for scientific research or adventure cave exploration.

Kapuas Watershed in fact has been recognized internationally since 1894, thanks to the Kapuas-Mahakam expedition conducted by the Dutch nationalist, Dr. A.J. Niuwenhuis, with the support of local communities. His journey spanned several months taking him through forests, rivers, and mountainous regions. This historic journey spanned two provinces, starting in West Kalimantan's Kapuas River all the way to the Mahakam River in the Province of East Kalimantan. This trip became a legendary expedition, and today continues to be a favorite as one of the longest hiking routes in Kalimantan.

Challenge of Accessibility

Difficulties in accessibility have greatly attributed to the isolation and exclusion of communities in the Kapuas Hulu Regency, particularly the three *Dusun* in the upper branch of the Kapuas River. This low level of information exchange has led to limitations in community awareness regarding development systems and concepts.



This was especially the case in matters concerning the management of natural resources.

Important socialization activities that should have been done by responsible parties, including BKNP Management Unit and others rarely reached these three *Dusun*. A result of this is a low quality of community participation in the BKNP management process of planning, development and implementation.

Trapped in The System of *Ijon*

These communities face many limiting factors such as human resources, low access to information, and limited community understanding of natural resource management concepts and policies. These factors have led to an increased vulnerability of the communities to exploitation by outside parties. These opportunists from the outside come with abundant cash capital to invest and quickly gain control



Mercury manace by unlicensed gold mining. (WWF Doc.)

over the communities' natural resources. This exploitation quickly sidesteps the traditional customary land rights and traditional land use systems. As is the case of management for the lucrative trade in *swift* bird nest, most of the capital owners came from Putussibau and surrounding areas. Very few members from the local

communities retained actual ownership of the caves which hosts the birds and therefore have little control over the price of their products. Most local communities are only left with the low position of laborers.

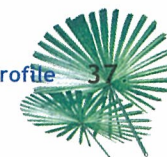
This has also been the outcome with the management of forest resources. Most local communities were persuaded by outside parties to get involved in timber exploitation. Again, however within this lucrative timber industry the only positions offered to local communities are that of labor. There are large-scale benefits and capital turnover from these exploitative activities but little to none of which the communities receive. What the communities do seem to receive is the introduction and increased rates of alcoholism, gambling, prostitution, and the economic system of *ijon*. *Ijon* is a system of deception used by middle men to trap the communities economically through corruption, biased trade or manipulation of prices and market access. This economic leverage is then used to push the communities into further unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. This has huge implications and can greatly be attributed to the community's steady shift from traditional values to exploitative patterns in the management of natural resources.

Hence, to strengthen the collective awareness of the community, in the early stages the COs conducted several visits to a number of key target villages. Although the main purpose is to open interaction and win trust of the community, these communities were chosen due to their vulnerability to the *Ijon* system.

A Return to Cultural Roots

Of the support program, Matalunai village is the furthest downstream. This Region is marred with intensive interaction from the outside world. The community inhabiting this countryside is predominantly of Bukat ethnic descent known for their hunting capabilities. This character makes their life very dependant upon the integrity of their surrounding forested area. Unfortunately, due to intensive interaction with outsiders, these valuable forest resources have started to dwindle and serious impacts are beginning to show. Prominent among these is the disappearance of wild game, decline in fish resources, and a steady decrease in the abundance of non-timber forest products. Respect and understanding of traditional wisdom is steadily diminishing, in turn weakening the bargaining position of the local community in the management of natural resources.

Considering these factors and the dangers it posed to the collective rights of the community, several community and Adat leaders conducted various village level





Adat Law Documentation of Bukat people in Matalunai. (WWF Doc.)

meetings for the revitalization of traditional wisdom. Results from these meetings came in the form of two important decisions, firstly, the documentation of their disappearing traditional heritage into a book that outlined the Customary Laws of the Bukat communities in Matalunai. Secondly, a proposition was made for the Menjuai sub-Watershed be a protected area managed under the supervision of the Bukat community.

The compilation of the book was done through the participation of important elders of the Bukat culture, some still active in the communities, some already retired. Later on a formal team was established that consisted of *Adat* leaders, village heads, community leaders, *Dusun* chiefs, women leaders and representatives of the younger generation. WWF Indonesia was the facilitator and in charge of documentation. The entire process from discussions to publication of final documents took one year to finish.

Protecting the Source of Life

In this community's area there are a variety of economically important fish species such as; *Tengadak* (*Barbodes collingwoodi*), *Semah* (*Tor tambra* and/or *Tor tambroides*), and a variety of freshwater decorative fish. As a protective measure against exploitation from outside parties, the community of Matalunai collectively agreed to declare the Menjuai River as a closed area. The agreement was made that this river ecosystem would be under the collective protection of the Bukat Matalunai community.

Since the traditional control system of customary laws is not as strong as it used to be, to strengthen the legal basis of the declaration, an effort was made to obtain also a government Regent's Decree for the protection of the river and its existing natural resources. The Initial step for this was the development of a formal proposal for the protected area. This was done through several mechanisms of village deliberation facilitated by COs from WWF.

Hereinafter, the COs together with elite figures and *Adat* chiefs of the Bukat tribe submitted this proposal, and conducted numerous discussions with district leaders and Local Government officials of the Kapuas Hulu Regency. This consensus building process is gaining momentum and consultation with various parties is still underway.

Motivation by Experience

There is a need to improve and extend community awareness concerning the sustainable management of natural resources. A documentary film was made about the successful activities in the Bukat community regarding the compilation of customary laws and the community proposal for the protection of the Menjuai River area. This documentary film was used as campaign material to provide case examples to encourage other community groups. In order to produce this documentary film the field CO was assisted by the WWF Media, Education and Campaign Team.

This documentary film concerning the successful activities in the Bukat community was later shown to the Punan community in Dusun Bungan and Dusun





Traditional Nature Reserve of Menjuai river, Bukat in Matalunai. (WWF Doc.)

Tanjung Lokang. This method has successfully aroused awareness among the Punan community regarding successful community based, natural resource management strategies.

This increased awareness emerged in a discussion regarding financing alternatives for the community at Nanga Bungan. At this time the community expressed interest in finding a

location for the breeding of economically valuable fish species, especially *Tengadak* (*Barbodes collingwoodi*), and *Semah* (*Tor tambra* and/or *Tor tambroides*). These fish are still abundant in various watercourses around Nanga Bungan.

After an agreement was reached, a working team was established consisting of *Adat* figures, community leaders, local entrepreneurs, and youth members. This team later conducted a survey to find a suitable site location for natural fish breeding. In this case, the CO acted as a communication bridge between the team and the Kapuas Hulu Regency office of Fishery, Agriculture and Irrigation.

Looking at Opportunities

The Natural condition of the Kapuas Watershed has big potential for adventure tourism destination. There are numerous rapids found in the area ideal for recreational boating and canoeing. This can be developed as an additional source of income for the local community. For this purpose, WWF Indonesia formed collaboration with the BKNP Management Unit, Tourism and Culture Agency of Kapuas Hulu Regency, and representatives of the local community. This was followed by a



Learning from mobile cinema. (WWF Doc.)

socialization campaign to help prepare the community for the development of adventure tourism in their area. At the same time a survey was conducted to locate an appropriate location for the fish breeding activities. Based on survey results, a location was chosen in a stretch of the

river course running through Riam Matahari-Riam Lapan-Riam Batu Lintang.

WWF Indonesia also facilitated a visit from a team of rafting instructors from Yogyakarta to train members of the community, BKNP Management Unit staff, WWF Indonesia staff, a conservation cadre group and officials from the Kapuas Hulu Regency Agency of Tourism and Culture. In order to test the results from the training, a trial run was conducted over a chosen course of the river. A documentary film was made about these activities to be used as

Clearing for semah fish (*Tor tambra*) breeding. (WWF Doc.)



promotional material. In September of 2003 this film was shown in Pontianak at the 2nd annual East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP EAGA) Travel Exchange event of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. This international level activity has strategic and significant meaning, and was attended by international tourism writers, and travel agents from various countries.

Footbridge Balancing

Up till now, the support program steadily continues, especially in the reinforcement of community capacities. This is an ongoing process and activities are either generally focused or via working teams. A number of other activities were also placed as a priority, such as the reinforcement of community elements, and the promotion of awareness towards sustainable human resource management

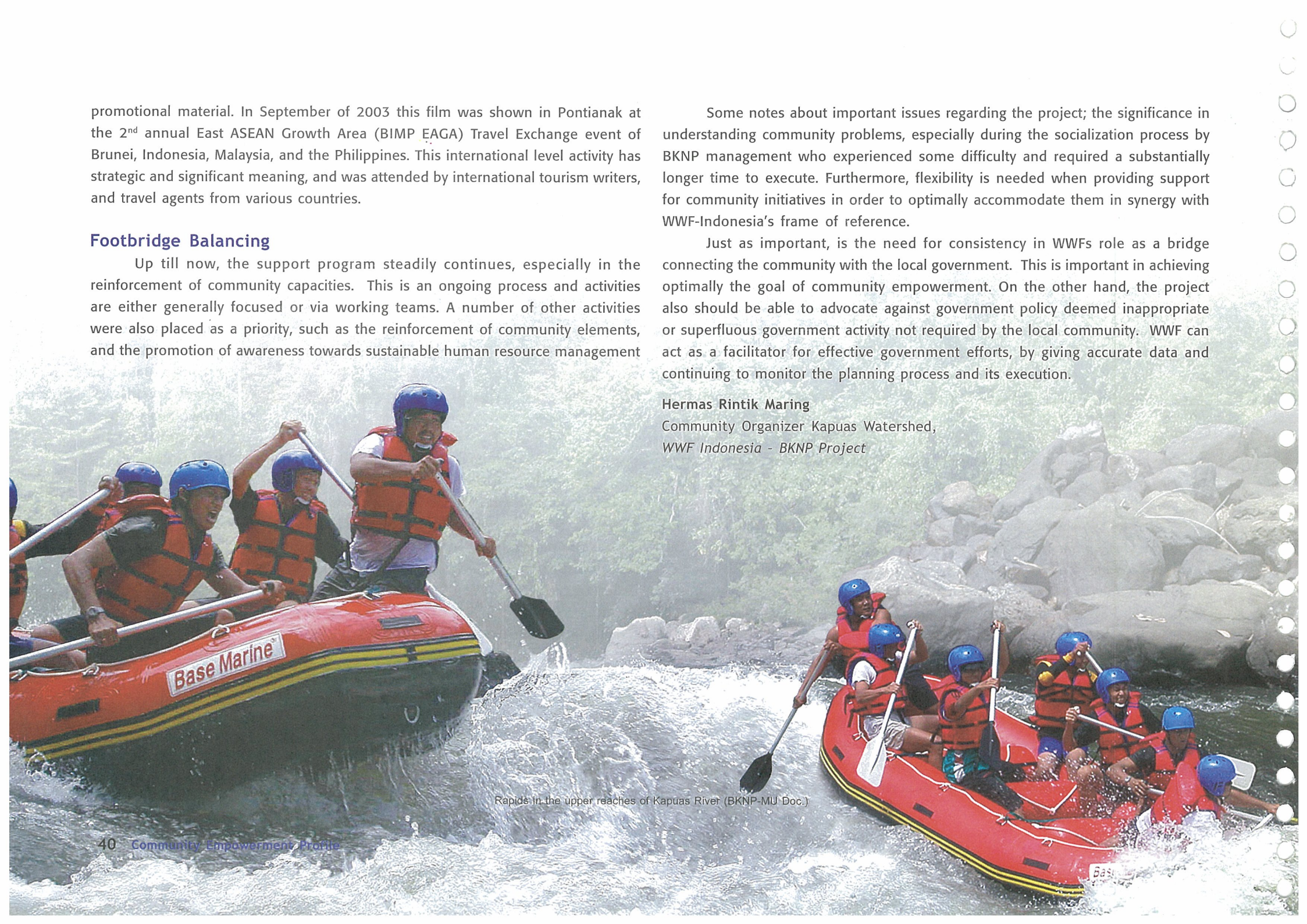
Some notes about important issues regarding the project; the significance in understanding community problems, especially during the socialization process by BKNP management who experienced some difficulty and required a substantially longer time to execute. Furthermore, flexibility is needed when providing support for community initiatives in order to optimally accommodate them in synergy with WWF-Indonesia's frame of reference.

Just as important, is the need for consistency in WWFs role as a bridge connecting the community with the local government. This is important in achieving optimally the goal of community empowerment. On the other hand, the project also should be able to advocate against government policy deemed inappropriate or superfluous government activity not required by the local community. WWF can act as a facilitator for effective government efforts, by giving accurate data and continuing to monitor the planning process and its execution.

Hermas Rintik Maring

Community Organizer Kapuas Watershed,
WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project

Rapids in the upper reaches of Kapuas River (BKNP-MU Doc.)



Towards Effective Conservation Area Management



M. Hermayani Putera (WWF Doc.)



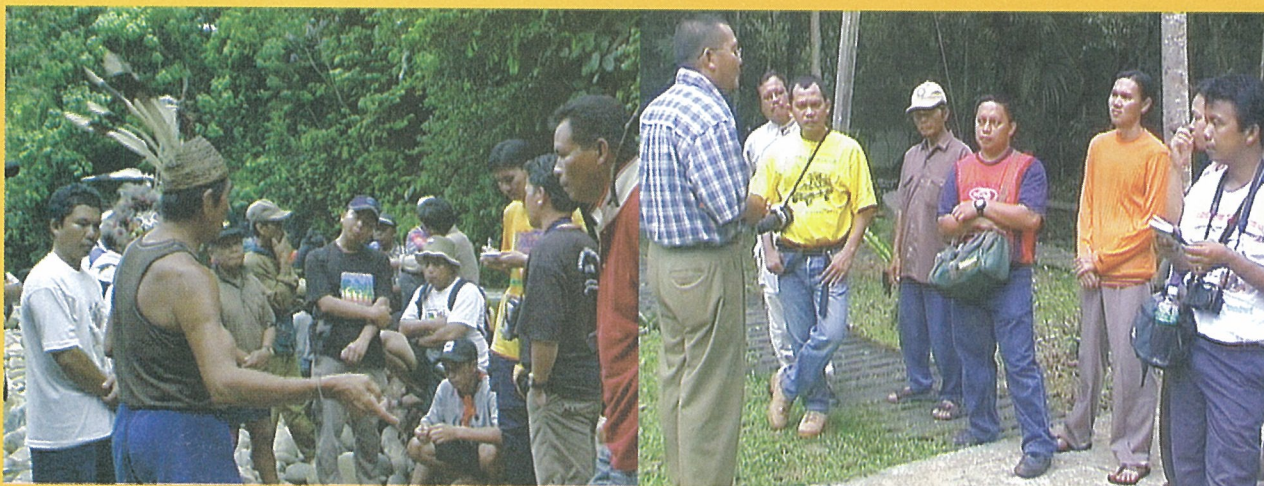
Sharing experience through informal discussion among field visit, Batang Ai National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia. (WWF Doc.)

"One of the important aspects of BKNP is its geographical position. The borders of BKNP meet those of the Malaysian conservation areas of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and Batang Ai National Park (BANP) in Sarawak, Malaysia. Realizing the importance and strategic value of this continuous expanse of three combined conservation areas, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) extended their support for the development of this trans-boundary conservation area. The principles of trans-boundary conservation require a strategic agenda in bilateral cooperation and not just the responsibility of each country acting alone. It is expected that efforts in tropical forest conservation will greatly be strengthened through this venture.

One form of support was the success of the ITTO Borneo Biodiversity Expedition (IBBE) conducted in September-October 1997. The support from ITTO was very significant considering the fact that scientific exploration of natural resources is still very limited due to the lack of available funding.

One of the important results from this expedition that needs to be followed up on is the incorporation of the information collected about these three conservation areas into development plans for the region. This information can be very valuable as base knowledge when making adjustments in development patterns to accommodate the existing local communities and match this with the agenda for development in the area.

Within the context of bilateral cooperation, the successful management of BKNP has social, cultural, ecological, and political implications. The similarity between these three conservation areas has risen the interests of UNESCO to establish all three conservation areas of BKNP, BANP, and LEWS as World Nature Heritage Sites combined under the category of one Trans-boundary Conservation Area (TBCA). At this time this proposal continues to be developed by both parties, and according to its stated schedule the proposal will



Cross visit activities in both Indonesian (left) and Malaysian (right) sites. (WWF Doc.)

be submitted by February 2004 to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

In order to insure effectiveness and continuity within the management program, several cooperative efforts have been made, among these is the establishment since 2001 of a international Task Force. Membership of this Task Force is represented by management authorities from both countries and several other parties, including ITTO. The goal of this Task Force is to formulate strategic measures and pursue the priority of improving technical cooperation and other supportive activities. The Task Force meets twice a year with the two countries rotating as hosts to the event.

Other important cooperative efforts were conducted in the form of cross-visits. This activity started in May 2003 in the form of a team visit by LEWS and BANP to the BKNP area. In August 2003 a Team from

BKNP made a reciprocal visit across the border and consisted of leading officers of the Kapuas Hulu Regency Local Development Planning Board, Chief of the Dayak *Adat* Council of Kapuas Hulu, community representatives from 4 Watersheds of BKNP, and management staff of BKNP.

It was agreed afterward that further steps need to be taken in the formation of more concrete agendas, such as the development of combined programs from the three conservation areas. As a process of cooperative learning, the rotation of representatives from each management staff in all activities. Equal promotional exchange and the development of shared eco-tourism packages are needed. Active information exchanges regarding the development and successful product marketing of various economic commodities. The implementation of joint security patrols along the

borders of the three areas. A joint study of satellite images and remote sensing data is needed for up to date status information of the three areas. Equal support and promotional efforts are needed for environmental education and awareness campaigns.

Indonesia at this time faces complex economic, social, political, and legal challenges. In view of this, an effort to bring the local community out from their routine, and see other places with similar cultural background and ecosystem. This was considered an effective step to open insights and perspectives. This cross-visit can open insights from all participants concerning the importance of effective supervision and protection of all three conservation areas. This also provided an opportunity to see concrete examples of local community involvement in collaborative management of conservation areas.

Recently, these community representatives have shown great commitment and dedication to supervising BKNP, starting in small individual ways, based on their own knowledge. Evidence of such a positive turn is worthy of support in policy from the Indonesian government and of the international community as a whole."

M. Hermayani Putera

Deputy Project Leader

WWF Indonesia - BKNP Project



Albertus (WWF Doc.)

"Kalimantan is one of the most famous islands due to its biodiversity in various endemic plants of ecological and economic value. This diversity of plants has been recognized for a long time and has played an important role in local livelihoods. Timber is used as construction materials and plants for ethno botanical needs such as drugs and household appliances.

The diverse plants in this area also play an important Ecological role in maintaining the sustainability of species in adjacent environments. No species live independently, but in an ecosystem of complex interactions. The destruction of one species frequently leads to serious impacts on other associated species. An extreme example of this concerns the tree species *Ensurai* (*Dipterocarpus oblongifolius*) that grows along the riverbanks of riparian forests. Within the leafy coronet of the *Ensurai* tree there are several other plants that are very dependant on the *Ensurai* tree for their survival. These include tree parasites, epiphytes in the form of orchids, assorted pandan

Database for Conservation

(*Pandanus* sp.), and even the moss that grows on the riverbanks. These dependant plant species growing in this tree also draw the attention of small animals, insects, birds, mammals, as well as reptiles. Insects are attracted to the bright rose color and plant nectar of the *Rhododendron* sp., some bird species are attracted to the flowers of (*Aethopyga* spp., *Arachnothera* spp., and *Nectarinia* spp.). Tree lizards (*Mabuya multipaciyata*) catch insects that land on the calyx flower, and the forest mouse looks for seeds entangled among sticks and branches below.

All of these interacting species above are impacted or lost the moment the *Ensurai* tree is chopped down. Humans cut away needlessly because they consider themselves the master of life on earth. Such destruction can be found all through the natural forests of Kalimantan, including the BKNP area.

At present, WWF-Indonesia in BKNP through the project Division for Biodiversity Inventory Monitoring and Evaluation (BIME) are concentrating on 5 endemic plant species that are threatened with extinction. A study is also done outlining these species benefits to local livelihood and economic potential. One of the plant species identified and selected to become a development priority is the tree *Belian* (*Eusideroxylon zwagerii*). This tree species is spread sporadically in the natural forest, but now is no longer easy to find. Its ability to naturally germinate is very low, and heavy extraction and exploitation by humans in turn is very high. This type of timber is very popular in the wood

industry and considered as a high quality wood. In construction terms, this tree species belongs to the Grade I classification and due to its hardness, it is known internationally as "iron wood" (*kayu besi*).

The BIME Division of the WWF-TNBK program acts as a supporting agency to ensure the successful implementation of the CO's function in their respective locations. This division provides preliminary information to support and supplement the activities of every CO. Information for each Watershed is disseminated regarding the status of flora and fauna and the related local wisdom that can be used to support the conservation program. COs will follow up information that has been internalized by each community. Development of flora and fauna and traditional wisdom is based on local initiatives in every Watershed. WWF provides direct and intensive field assistance whenever COs run out of options or resources.

The activities that have been implemented by the community will be checked and monitored from time to time and in due time the progress of all activities will be evaluated. In the final stage, all of the information that has been compiled in report form will be integrated for the use in a collective database, where every party can easily access the information they need."

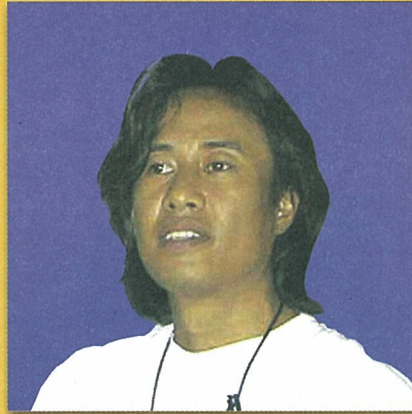
Albertus

Coordinator Biodiversity Inventory,
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DEVELOPING LOCAL INITIATIVES THROUGH MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



Anas Nashrullah (WWF Doc.)



Syahirsyah (WWF Doc.)

In order to reach sustainable natural resource development, an important aspect that must be taken into account is the vast amount of stakeholders and their ability to articulate ideas, concepts, and experiences. When expressed through media, these all can create a valuable input for successful natural resource management. Ideas and input through media can provide a way for many to understand each other and communicate within and throughout the many layers of management. There is an urgent need in the area of development programs, particularly in communication, to bridge the gaps between theory and concepts to successful implementation in the field.

preserving the hydrologic and life systems of West Kalimantan.

Moreover, the biological resources of this area are valuable in many ways to tropical research, exploration, educational tours, natural tourism and adventure. Unfortunately, nowadays there is a trend towards the exploitation of natural resources, especially in West Kalimantan. The existence of conservation areas in many places throughout Indonesia are the result of development strategies that stress macro economic needs. Exploitation patterns have marginalized the integrity and sustainability of natural forest resources, also the wealth of local wisdom from surrounding

Betung Kerihun National Park is in the upper river area of the Kapuas Hulu Regency in the province of West Kalimantan. The benefits of Betung Kerihun National Park to society and the government, especially in Kapuas hulu, is significant. This 800,000ha area provides one of the last defensive systems for

communities has not yet been successfully utilized in management patterns.

This is primarily caused by a lack of awareness or understanding by implementers and decision makers as to the depth of traditional management systems and the complexity of the natural world. There is a profound need to coordinate the vast amount of valuable information to the appropriate stakeholders. Media can be an effective tool in transferring up-to-date information about the existence and importance of various biological and human resources in the area.

Media Role

In accordance with the urgent need to effectively transfer information in a precise and direct way, the media project's approach and expected functions are as follows: (1) provide a tool to bridge the information gap from the decision makers to the greater community and vice versa; (2) As a strategy to interpret activities and the progress of field implementation, providing a medium for sharing examples of implementation for possible replication elsewhere; (3) As a place to develop healthy communications that strengthen and convey the importance of preservation efforts and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Approach Strategy

Considering the important role media can play in expressing the need for sustainable natural resource



Documentary making on community's activity as a communication strategy to gain public support on conservation. (WWF Doc.)

management, it is also necessary to have an approach that is suitable to the social, cultural, and economic conditions of the target area. Audio visual is highly recommended in this case. This opens and shows in a direct way, the complexity and the uncertain variables within natural resource management. The choice of this medium is based on some considerations: (1) The viewing audience is expanded due to the wide variety of people with access to VCRs, VCD, DVD and other tools to view audio visual products. (2) Heightened interest due to the fact that the people themselves play the main role, as well as the viewing audience. (3) The information and language content are those used on an everyday basis and therefore clear and easily understood.

Audio visual can provide for a more compelling expression in the urgency of situations and their possible future consequences. By using this approach, it is expected that the information transferred from many voices will more accurately express realities in the field. It also provides for an outlet and exchange of valuable suggestions as to what should be done to approach the complex social, cultural, and economic factors involved in the sustainable management of natural resources.

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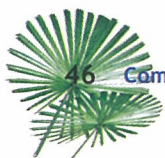
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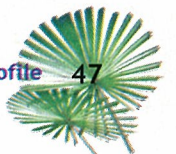
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Glossary

1. Adat: There are historical local customs and traditions within many communities in Indonesia. The general term used to describe these customs and the communities they govern is Adat.
2. Dayak: this is a general Indonesian term used to describe the many various traditional tribes that live on the island of Borneo.
3. Tukaan: is the term used by the Kayan tribe to denote their traditional forest conservation areas.
4. Community-Based Trans-Boundary Management Plan of Betung Kerihun National Park Year 1999-2024 or MP-BKNP.
5. Uncak: this term comes from the Indonesian word Puncak which means summit or mountain peak.
6. Putussibau: this is the capitol city of the Kapuas Hulu Regency of West Kalimantan.
7. Dusun: this is a government recognized Sub-village within a larger village termed Desa.
8. Kampung: this is the Indonesian word for village and often used as a general term, but also sometimes it is used to denote traditional distinctions between villages, government distinctions usually lump the smaller villages (kampungs) into larger village or sub-village conglomerates of Desa or Dusun.
9. Karawit tattoo: an intricate tattoo pattern characteristically of the Iban tribes and often covering large areas of their body.
10. Hukum Adat: Traditional Dayak Laws and customs that historically have governed the politics, economics, socio culture and every day activities of local communities.
11. Adat Istitat: Traditional Dayak institutions and organizations that have historically been the governing structure of local communities.
12. Swidden: the traditional method of slash and burn dry rice cultivation.
13. Hak Pengelolaan Hutan or HPH 100 HA: in the past the rights to harvest timber were restricted to only large timber operations. This changed with the issuance of new laws and policies associated with local autonomy. These new policies allowed individuals or small community groups to apply for a license to harvest timber in areas of 100ha. Due to the mismanagement and misinterpretation in its implementation, this policy led to extensive deforestation and local conflict. It has since been revoked.
14. RT: This is a further sub-division of villages, usually denoting the distinction of smaller villages within a sub-village (Dusun).
15. Wallet bird: this bird lives in caves and their nests are considered to have a high medicinal value, the sale of these nests is very lucrative.





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