

## The Ecological Dilemma of Local People and Wild Boar in Way Kambas National Park Boundary

### Dilema Ekologis Masyarakat Setempat dan Babi Hutan di Perbatasan Taman Nasional Way Kambas

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**ABSTRAK.** Makalah ini membahas tentang dilema gangguan babi hutan di perbatasan Taman Nasional Way Kambas. Penelitian ini bekerjasama dengan Balai Taman Nasional Way Kambas, dilakukan pada bulan Maret – April 2005 di desa Labuhan Ratu VI dan VII. Metode yang digunakan adalah survei angket dan wawancara. Untuk mempelajari tipe habitat secara umum digunakan metode *rapid assessment*. Pengetahuan tentang keberadaan babi hutan oleh masyarakat setempat cukup tinggi terutama berdasarkan perjumpaan langsung dan bekas jejaknya. Babi hutan biasanya dijumpai dalam kelompok pada sore dan malam hari di perkebunan singkong dengan vegetasi semak. Gangguan kerusakan hanya ditemukan pada perkebunan singkong. Pandangan masyarakat terhadap babi hutan sebagai hama menunjukkan adanya keterkaitan terhadap keberlangsungan kehidupan masyarakat setempat dan ancaman populasi babi hutan

**Key Words:** babi hutan, *Sus scrofa*, masyarakat lokal, konflik, kontak langsung, cetakan kaki, batas taman nasional.

**ABSTRACT.** The study on the wild boar-local people conflict dilemma has been done in the boundary of Way Kambas National Park. The research was focused in two villages of Labuhan Ratu VI and VII, in collaboration with the Way Kambas National Park, by questionnaire survey and interview in March and April 2005. General habitat was carried out by rapid assessment method. The knowledge on the presence of wild boar was highly noticed among the local people by both direct contact and foot print. Direct contact mostly with its social group during the late afternoon and night time, and occurred at cassava plantations at the border areas with shrubs. All crop disturbance found only in cassava plantation. The conflicts indicate a reciprocal relationship between the wild boar and local people.

**Key Words:** wild boar, *Sus scrofa*, local people, conflict, cassava, direct contact, foot print, national park boundary.

#### INTRODUCTION

Human-mammals conflict has become a problem worldwide. It not only brings damage to those people who live near the wildlife, but also causes problems to the conservation for wildlife. The factors causing human and mammal's conflicts include the human population increases, wildlife habitat losses, change of land use pattern and wildlife population growth after effective implementation of conservation measures (Jing and Zhigang, 2006).

Crop raiding can reduce farmers' tolerance towards wildlife. Despite higher human population densities in rural areas, and more

rapid conversion of forest to farmland, much less is known about crop raiding in Asia. In Sumatra, wild boar (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758), has been considered as pests by local people because of its crop raiding activities. Farmers named the wild boar are one of the most destructive crop pests (Linkie *et al.*, 2007) as one of the human casualties is caused by wild boar (Nepal and Weber, 1995). Way Kambas National Park, as its natural habitat (Balai Taman Nasional Way Kambas, 2000), is going under pressure of fragmentation and human induced-destruction (Hariyanto, 2004) and as the results it changed the wild boar behavior. In Way Kambas, wild boar has a crucial part in Sumatran tiger food

chain (Rustiati, 2000). Considering the important ecological role of wild boar in its ecosystem, research on wild boar and local people conflict was conducted to record the contact and disturbance by wild pig in the boundary of Way Kambas National Park, especially in Labuhan Ratu VI and Labuhan Ratu VII.

Labuhan Ratu VI and Labuhan Ratu VII, in collaboration with Way Kambas National Park. These villages, adjacent to boundary of the park, and most of their occupations are traditional farmer (Peta monografi desa, 2004). Direct observation was carried out at hour of 06.00-10.00, 12.00-15.00, 16.00-18.00 and 19.00-03.00. Rapid assessment, modified from habitat assessment methods (Brower, 1990) was applied to learn the general types of vegetation.

**METHODS**

The research was conducted in March-April 2005 by questionnaire survey and direct observation in

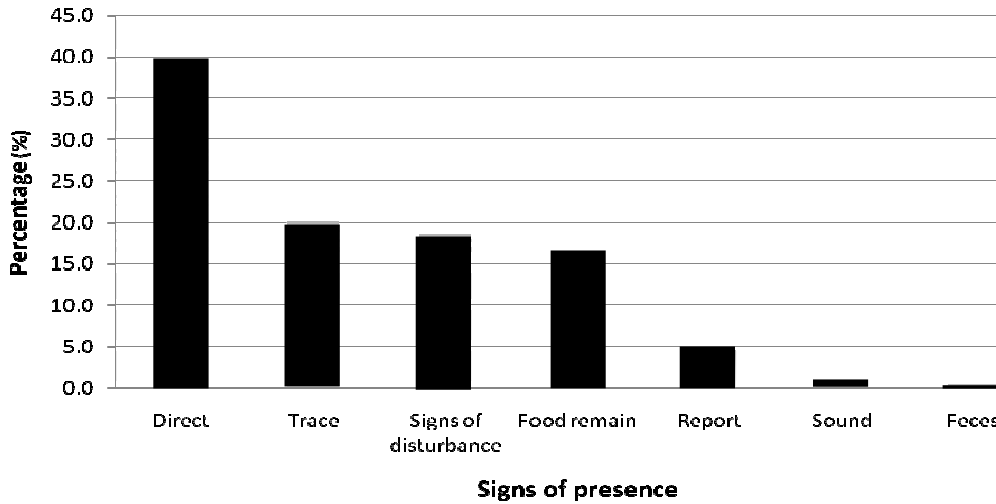


Figure 1. The knowledge methods of wild boar presence in the boundary of Way Kambas National Park

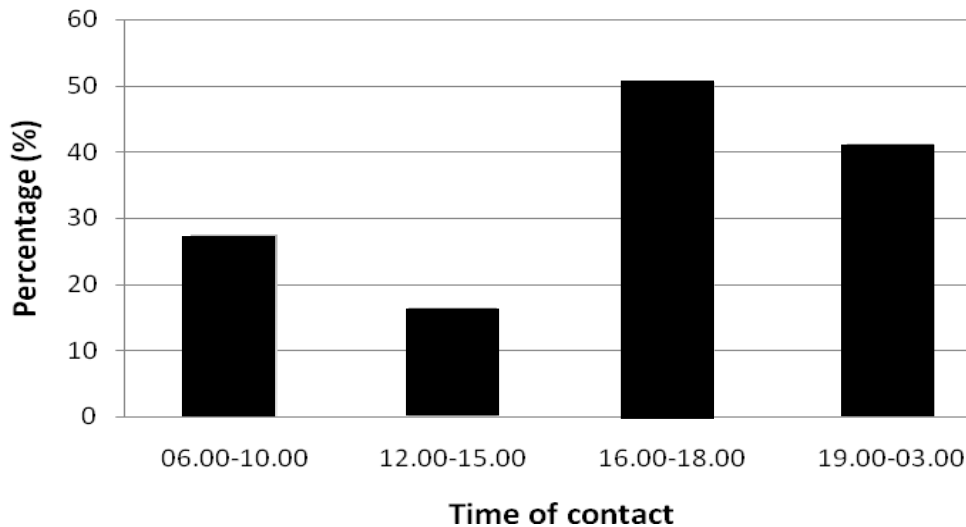


Figure 2. Time of direct contact with wild boar in the boundary of Way Kambas National Park



Figure 3. Foot prints of wild boar found in the cassava plantation next to the boundary of Way Kambas National Park

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Most of the local people (68.5%) witnessed the wild boar presence at the plantation next to the park boundary, either by direct contact (39.5%) while they were working, trace or foot print (20.2%), sign of disturbance (18.6%), and food remain (16.1%) (Figure 1). Wild boars usually were in group between 2-10 individuals, only once during the field observation, direct contact with a male wild boar. Gingerich (1994) reported that a male wild boar usually is soliter after the mating season as the estrous cycle is in between November and February (Ensiklopedi Indonesia, 2003). Of the direct contact, 60.6% occurred in the afternoon of 16.00-18.00 hour (Figure 2) as the farmers did their activities maintaining and guarding their crop from wildlife disturbance both day and night.

All remains of disturbance such as food remains and foot prints (Figure 3) were found in cassava plantations, which were 5-10 meters from the canal next to the border of the park, in the shrubs area. The wild boar trail is covered by *Imperata* grasses. It is suitable with its natural habitat which needs dense vegetation for cover (Gingerich, 1994). It is also usually close to water resources such as river and swamp. Wild boar disturbed the crop and ate the root. The disturbance was not affected by season as cassava is planted the whole year.

The presence of wild boar out of the park may become potential conflict with local people surrounding the park's boundary. As the local people considered wild boar as a crop pest, and therefore deserved to be killed. The local people complained about this disturbance but never reported due to the willingness and the effort to hunt the wild boar with the assistance of domestic dogs and by traps. As the result, it will threaten the population of wild boar in Way Kambas National Park.

## CONCLUSION

The presence of wild boar outside the park was experienced by local people mostly by direct contact. Most of the disturbance occurred in the cassava plantation, in the vicinity of the park's border with shrubs and *Imperata* vegetation. The results reflected the reciprocal attitudes of local people and wild boar.

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