



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	3/8/2021 (SELASA)	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	JABATAN HIDUPAN LIAR SABAH			

POACHING

NST, 3 Ogos
2021_10

Only 320 Bornean banteng left in Sabah forests

KOTA KINABALU: Poaching needs to be eradicated to save the endangered Bornean banteng, also known as *tembadau*, from extinction in Sabah.

There are about 320 banteng left in the state's forest. This was based on a population viability modelling exercise (PVA) carried out at an international workshop organised on the conservation of the Bornean banteng in 2017.

The figure showed that if only one per cent of the population was hunted in Sabah, the growth would cease in the smallest northeast and Sipitang management unit areas, said Danau Girang Field Centre (DGFC) director and Cardiff University professor Dr Benoit Goossens.

"In the southeast and central unit areas, growth would cease if two and four per cent of the banteng were to be hunted, respectively.

"Extinction was estimated at 21 to 39 years if five per cent of the population were to be hunted every

year, with the banteng at the central management unit becoming extinct last," added Goossens.

To ensure the survival and recovery of the banteng, the population should be supplemented with captive-bred individuals, he suggested in a scientific paper recently published in the journal for endangered species research, scientists and wildlife managers.

DGFC, Cardiff University and Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) collated the first population parameters for the Bornean banteng by developing population models to simulate the effect of different hunting rates.

"Our findings from camera trap surveys suggested that the banteng population in Sabah is geographically divided in four management unit areas based on connectivity.

"These are the northeast (with Paitan and Sugut Forest Reserves), west (Sipitang Forest Reserve), central (Deramakot, Tangkulap, Malua, Kuamut and

many others forest reserves) and southeast (Kulamba and Tabin Wildlife Reserves), which all require active management to prevent further population decline and local extinction," said Dr Penny Gardner, who led the state-wide banteng survey project for DGFC and SWD.

SWD assistant director and head of enforcement Mohd Sofian Abu Bakar said: "An action plan for Sabah was then drafted and approved by the state government in June 2019."

Yayasan Sime Darby continued its support for the project through funding for Protect, a boots-on-the-ground enforcement team under the Sabah Forestry Department.

"As an additional boost to wildlife enforcement, the US Department of State through its Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs provided funding in 2019 to set up our own intelligence and forensic units," said Sofian.



The Bornean banteng could become extinct in 21 to 39 years if five per cent of the population were to be hunted every year. PIC COURTESY OF THE DANAU GIRANG FIELD CENTRE

SWD director Augustine Tuuga said: "Our department takes poaching of our totally protected species very seriously and we are currently prosecuting a man for

possessing 36.1kg of banteng meat in Kota Belud.

"The hunting of our Schedule 1 species has to stop. We cannot afford to lose them."