



## The Role of Environment Community in Handling the Wildlife Trade

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**ABSTRACT:** This research was conducted to find out how or the role of Community in handling cases of wildlife trade in Indonesia. Using the environmental approach, this research elaborates on how to save wildlife from illegal trade. Indonesia has the largest forest in Kalimantan and has various animals, however disruption of the environment able to cause the change in the ecosystem and destroy the ecosystem itself. In searching for balance in the environment ecosystem, the environmental community in these problems has a big role to keep the balance in the environment ecosystem. At least, this research shows many roles of the community as an agent to save the environment.

**Keywords:** Environmental Politics, Community, Wildlife Trade.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Animals are one of the resources that can be categorized into something that is less valuable, so we need to look for a way to protect wildlife from illegal trade and poaching. Because, the activity of illegal trade and poaching occurred indirectly have an impact on the extinction of wild animals. As we all know that there is still a lot of illegal hunting going on, done by irresponsible people for individual profit. Wild animals are hunted, especially endangered species such as orangutans, Sumatran tigers, clouded leopards, crooked parrots and others, because they have high selling prices. Like the rhino that his horns took for sale. Rhinoceros horn can be sold for hundreds of millions. Because of the high prices so many people hunt and sell them on the grounds of economic needs. Animals are part of the environment. In the sense that without animals, the environment will become unbalanced. This environmental imbalance can create problems. Thus it is humans obligation who have intelligence and can think further to protect the environment. There is no need damaging the environment to seek profit; such as illegal hunting, burning of forests for garden use, illegal logging and others.

The role played by the COP is to take back or save animals from trade, such as orangutans, and then carry out rehabilitation so that they can be returned to the nature where the wild animals originated. Breeding activities can be carried out by government and private conservation agencies. Captivity of wild animals is necessary considering the species of animals. Because there are environmental adjustments that need to be prepared by captive breeding organizers. In order to remain suitable with the place of origin of these animals.

Captive breeding is a form of government responsibility and private concern for endangered wildlife. Because with the captive breeding, we can maintain and control the behavior and health of wild animals. Wild animals in captivity can also breed safely and get help from captivity officer [1, 2]. However, this breeding activity can eliminate the wild nature of these animals. Therefore there is a need for rehabilitation or restoration of wild animals if the captive wild animals want to be returned to the wild so that wild animals can find their

own food and understand who the real predators should be avoided.

Breeding activities like this are highly expected for the government because protected animals are considered as state assets. Therefore the emergence of such organizations is very helpful for government programs to protect and restore ecosystems [3]. There are several organizations that focus on nature protection activities such as forests, animals, and others. There are organizations called pro fauna, COP and others. These organizations have the same goal, which is to protect the environment so that nature is maintained and continues to be sustainable [3].

Center for Orangutan Protection (COP) is an organization that focuses on the protection of wild animals, especially protected animals, to maintain the stability of ecosystems in nature. Today various types of protection for wildlife have been regulated in the international constitution in 1973, that is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In Indonesia also has imposed protection for wild animals through Law Number 5 of year 1990 related to the conversion of biological natural resources and their ecosystems as well as other regulations that also regulate the protection of wildlife species and wildlife in the territory of Indonesia. In Indonesia, there are still many cases of crime about wildlife trade. Illegal trade has many purposes, such as for consumption or to utilize their skin and some are made as pets that causing the original character of the animal disappear so that there is a need for rehabilitation of animals that have been saved so that they can be released to where they should be placed [3].

As a manifestation of their concern, COP organization does several ways so that the animals can get protection from individuals who carry out hunting and free trade of these wild animals. The activity of poaching and free trade is an activity that often occurs and is ridden by irresponsible people who want to get bigprofits from the free trade of wildlife. Based on these problems, researchers are interested to conduct research related to the role of the center of orangutan protection organizations in handling cases of wildlife trade as a form of the organization's concern for wildlife especially protected and endangered wildlife.

## II. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

**Environmental Politics:** Environmental Politics according to Paterson is an approach that is a combination of environmental problems and economic politics. Where this can occur due to the change of tension that happens dynamically between the environment and humans, both between groups of people on a local scale to transnational scale as a whole. Environmental politics can be defined as a condition of political resources which becomes a network in the changing conditions of the environment itself.

Environmental Politics has gone through several developments, especially at the level of social science, where environmental politics has various types of terms ranging from Political Ecology, Green Politics and Environmental Politics. Examples of these terms are used at the level of social science with the intention of such as exploitation of mines, factory waste, river flow pollution, forest destruction, air pollution, to environmental damage that is nothing but caused by unbalanced development and so on.

While according to Herman Hidayat, environmental politics is an approach which is a study of movements by actors. In this approach Herman Hidayat identified that the movements were carried out by a person as actors in order to determine the extent of their contribution to environmental management. Basically an actor in environmental politics can be divided into two, including:

**Direct Actor:** The role of the direct actor referred to the state, where the state is the main actor who has the greatest influence and responsibility in environmental preservation and also environmental damage. This is due to policies, executors, supervisors and managers up to the evaluation carried out by the state itself.

**Indirect Actor:** From local and international financial institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank), to academics or researchers, NGOs/NGOs (local, national and international) are the role of indirect actors. International financial institutions are included in the role of indirect actors because of the form of contribution that provides financial assistance to certain countries for environmental preservation. While the role of academics to NGOs is included as the role of indirect actors who have critical thoughts, namely by analyzing and providing an input to the government so that the government can have awareness of environmental damage and animal extinction that has occurred and need to be stopped - activities that cause environmental damage and animal extinction.

Looking from the elaboration of the theory above, it can be seen that the role of the COP organization is included in new social movements because new social movements are movements carried out by one or more people to achieve a common goal so that what is expected by the group can be achieved. Like the COP organization that has the aim to keep wild animals from being hunted and sold because of the existence of wild animals that are increasingly depleting even some are already endangered. The purpose of the COP is not only in the interests of the organization. But for the benefit of the community and even the interests of natural ecosystems to remain stable and maintained. The activities carried out by the COP are continuous activities until the expected goal has been reached, namely returning endangered animals by making

captive breeding and recapturing animals that have been sold and have been maintained by some people who bought them illegally.

## III. METHODOLOGY

In this journal researchers used qualitative research methods. The qualitative method used is a procedure that produces descriptive data derived from a variety of sources both written and oral and the behavior of people who meet the research criteria. This approach is directed at the background and the whole individual. The method we use in this research is literature studies by taking sources from various books, journals and theses relating to the topic. In other words, the researcher analyzes and concludes the contents of the journals, books, official websites of Profana Indonesia and academic thesis in accordance with the topic.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. History Community Engagement

COP or commonly known as the Center for Orangutan Protection is an organization that is very concerned about the survival of orangutans. In 2005 to 2006, Hardi Baktiantoro who worked as Lone Droscher Nielsen's assistant at the Nyarumenteng Orangutan Reintroduction Center managed to save at least 256 orangutans, not including the number of orangutans killed or killed while on their way to the reintroduction center. The 256 orangutans were rescued in the palm oil plantation area. Hardi Baktiantoro wanted to reveal to the world so they know that the situation on the reality was caused by the cruelty done by several oil palm companies. To stop the cruelty, Hardi Baktiantoro invited his two friends, Wahyuni, as videographer and Hery Susanto as photographers. In the beginning of the struggle, COP got help from Nurhalik, a teacher and Sri Hastutik, an accountant, so they were both appointed to be founding members of the COP, which was to strengthen the organization and prepare for future regeneration.

The official beginning of the establishment of the COP organization was on March 1, 2007, which was then headed by the Principal and assisted by several staff. In carrying out its work program, COP gets together every year and schedules a number of work programs that will be implemented the following year. So that the COP always evaluates to continuously improve its work program. The establishment of the COP is to stop the slaughter of orangutans that occurred in the forests of Borneo, the slaughter continues to occur as a result of deforestation where this is done by a number of companies to be used as oil palm plantations. Orangutans as aboreal animals, which most of their activities are spent in the trees, so orangutans really need forests for their survival. With the establishment of the Center for Orangutan Protection (COP), it is hoped that the community can help each other to prevent and stop deforestation so that all can preserve the forest and not disturb the forest ecosystem, so that orangutans will not be disturbed. In its activities, COP has built a Forest Defender camp, patrolled and reforested forests that have been destroyed by elements to reconnect damaged habitats, besides that the COP also provides education that builds community awareness to know that forests are very important for their own lives by it is hoped that the community can become aware and involved in preserve the environment.

### *B. East Kalimantan and Conservation*

The Center for Orangutan Protection collaborates with the East Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) to build an orangutan rehabilitation center. The aim of rehabilitation center is so that orangutans can adapt before they are returned to the wild. The orangutans that enter the rehabilitation center are sick orangutans, living with humans for a long time so they forget their natural habitat in the forest, and deformed Orangutan.

The establishment of an orangutan rehabilitation center in Kalimantan caused by COP as an orangutan protection organization that immediately took action on what happened to orangutan habitat. There is so much deforestation that it disturbs the habitat of the orangutan, not only that the deforestation also often shoots orangutans they consider to be pests. The role of the COP is to evacuate orangutans to be taken to a rehabilitation center to be healed after they are released back to the forest if the conditions of the orangutans are possible.

### *C. The Correlation of Wildlife Trade and Environmental Politics*

Wildlife is a component in the ecosystem both as individuals and groups. Various wild animals have their respective roles in maintaining balance in nature, where in general some of these wild animals become the first consumers in the food chain and other types of animals have other roles as second, third and so on. So that the survival of these animal life is very highly dependent on each other and if one of the various species of animals that exist in nature has decreased the number and even extinction thus clearly has an impact on the food chain [4]. In other words, the scarcity and absence of one of the animals triggers an ecological problem.

In Law No. 5 of 1990 explained that animals are natural resources that live both on land, water to air. Whereas what is meant by wildlife can be interpreted as all animals that live on land, water to the air with wild characteristics both maintained and free living. Indonesia is a country that has the most species of animals in the world [5], the article is indeed Indonesia has many types of animals that live throughout the archipelago. Indonesia is included in one of the "megabiodiversity countries" which can be interpreted as Indonesia has the highest biodiversity in the world with an area of land around 1.3% of the world's land area but plant and animal wealth reaches about 25% of the world's biodiversity. The country is estimated to have 40,000 species of plants, and 300,000 species of animals according WRI-IUCN-UNEP [6].

Aside from being a country that has a variety of animals, Indonesia has also been named a "biodiversity hotspot country" [7]. However, the conditions previously described made Indonesia as a country that is threatened with biodiversity coupled with conditions experienced by ecosystems on earth. In other words, the utilization made by a number of people who are not aware about the environment in a number of places[8], which have caused huge natural damage an the balance of the ecosystem itself is disturbed. Judging from the important role of all species of animals that exist in the ecosystem makes people see the value of their existence. This value is unfortunately only seen based on the benefits and selling points in animals. So in other words for the sake of economic benefits there are many types of animals including endangered species which are hunted for illegal trade by people

without considering sustainability to meet local, national and international market demands[9].

This caused a decline in biodiversity and even caused extinction to the rarity of animals. According to the 2014 book Rare Wildlife Conservation for Ecosystem Balance (MU), the causes are:

1. Changes and depletion of habitats used as land ranging from plantations to other interests.
2. The emergence of various types of interests such as agriculture, mining and infrastructure,
3. The reduced quality of habitat for animals due to logging, exploitation and forest fires.
4. The occurrence of pollution in animal habitats originating from industry and households,
5. There is hunting for protected animals and other violations of the law.

In line with the urgency of protecting these animals, Indonesia issued Law No. 5 of 1990 concerning conservation of living natural resources and their ecosystems. Protection carried out by the government in areas that are habitat for animals is nothing but providing protection in the form of the designation and formation of an area into a nature reserve or wildlife reserve. Protection of this habitat indirectly aims to protect various species of animals to plants that are in the area as a whole so that they can be protected legally [10].

Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 regulates protected animals such as anoa, buffalo, elephant, jungle cat, sun bear, tiger, tiger, orangutan, Javan rhino, Sumatran rhino, eagle, bird of paradise, turtle/turtle/turtle, turtle, pythons of several types of orchids, semar bags, types of tengawang. The regulation also states the prohibition of capture, trade and keeping from listed species of animals. And if the prohibited things are done can be categorized as a violation of the law with the threat of criminal confinement and/or monetary fines according to the provisions in Law No. 5 of 1990. The status of animal protection is not only based on national law, but also on national agreements. It is based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) related to population planting and based on CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) related to trade agreements between countries. Based on the two provisions, Indonesia has implemented these provisions and ratified the agreement.

Orangutan is one of the species of animals that are owned by Indonesia. According to Meijard [11] there are 90% of the population of orangutans in the country of Indonesia, namely in the regions of Sumatra and Kalimantan, other locations are in Sabah and Sarawak. Orangutans are one of the protected animals, this is in line with the 2002 edition of the IUCN Red List. Where Sumatran Orangutans are included in the Critically Endangered, in other words, the number of Sumatran orangutans population are very small. Whereas Orangutans in Kalimantan included Endangered or rare. Kalimantan orangutans have decreased by 50% in the past 10 years. This is due to the lack of areas that are habitat for these orangutans and increased exploitation of the orangutans themselves. The Borneo orangutan trade is carried out widely both in Kalimantan and outside Kalimantan. Areas that are habitat for orangutans often become free trade places for orangutans, this is due to lack of law enforcement. The ownership of orangutans in the household as pets is also one of the factors in this animal trade because it

sees the value of the orangutan which is also considered a tradable commodity. In a survey conducted by TRAFFIC in West Kalimantan in 2003-2004 there were 62 orangutans that were privately owned and raised as pets. There are 8 orangutans in Central Kalimantan and 4 orangutans in East Kalimantan.

To overcome the problems concerning Indonesia's wildlife trade, the Department of Forestry formed a unit called the Special Unit for the Rapid Reaction Forestry Police (SPORC). SPORC operates based on information submitted or in other words based on reports from the community, NGOs and other parties. SPORC here is not without control but has limitations in terms of supervision it does, so with limitations that are owned because of the lack of incentives, training and completeness. One of the NGOs that participated in tackling illegal trade is Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP). The COP is located in Kalimantan, which is one of the habitat of orangutans in Indonesia, so the existence of this COP has a role in helping the government in reducing and preventing the animal trade that has been described in its programs.

Conflicts that have been explained previously are very closely related to domination in several regions, this often happens especially in Kalimantan. This is because none other than the problem of land that is used for human interests that continues to grow every year. Animal habitat is an important factor in supporting the existence of animals so they can continue to live and breed as they should. Animal protection that is regulated in laws and local regulations unfortunately has not been followed and obeyed by a number of regions, one of which is in Kalimantan. Because the protection of habitats such as conservation and protected areas does not necessarily eliminate existing problems, according to the official website Profauna.net states that conversion and protection areas only provide a place without being followed by protection from the habitat itself. So that animals that do not know the boundaries of the conversion area can be identified outside the conversion area such as in the concession area of forest concessions (HPH), mining, plantations to settlements. Another factor that is the obstacle is none other than the economy where in a short time like MP3EI can defeat all interests including wildlife.

The issue of habitat and wildlife is always related to the economic sector and conservation politics where this indirectly affects the politics of international trade. Environmental issues can also bring compliance to a country's economic sector, for example boycotting oil palm products, carbon trading to timber certification. Even so environmental issues can also make an discourse of international relations affected by the conditions of animal preservation and environment. Just as there are some activities or world events that are constrained because of wildlife issues as well as the habitat environment. Therefore, the issue of wildlife is no longer just a matter of biodiversity, conservation to protection. However, environmental issues have become one of the elements of a global issue that needs to be considered and can affect one country's relations with another that is none other than economic and political.

For that reason, a development needs to consider environmental issues as well as animals wisely. This can minimize the environmental impact that will occur in every development that is carried out. Considering the interests of wildlife as well as the environment is an

enormous form of ecological and economic investment for both current and future generations.

#### *D. The role of the COP in dealing with wildlife*

COP is an organization that was established in 2007 on the basis of the concern of several people for the urgency that arises because of the situation of wild animals, especially orangutans that are starting to be threatened. So from that stand the COP organization as a form of concern for environmental sustainability. COP has several programs which are considered by them as supporting environmental sustainability programs. The program carried out by COP is in the form of defending our forest, rescue, rehab, release, education.

Some of the programs launched by the COP should be able to maintain environmental sustainability. COP cooperated with the East Kalimantan BKSDA to create a rehabilitation center for orangutans. According to one of the management of the rehabilitation center, it was created as a place for orangutans to return their wild character to the wild orangutans are animals that live together before being released into the forest. What is feared by the East Kalimantan BKSDA and the Center for orangutan protection is that if these orangutans are released into the wild without rehabilitation, the orangutans may not be able to survive in the forest. Because the previous life that was in the cage and waiting for food from the care, it was very necessary to carry out rehabilitation of orangutans that were saved from the people responsible.

The other program, which is a rescue program conducted by COP, is a program that runs when receiving reports or has identified wild animals that are in a variety of places, such as being traded or in a forest that is burning. So, from this point the role of the COP as an organization that cares about the preservation of animals and the environment. By sending volunteers to the place of the incident and rescuing it, then it will be rehabilitated and inspected if it is already possible to release it, it will be released. Of course, it is not just anywhere. Before releasing it, COP needs to analyze and transfer to a place where wild animals are rehabilitated. So that animals that have been released are not threatened again by irresponsible people who want to hunt and burn forests as a form of land clearing that causes these animals to be threatened.

At present the community is still lacking in knowledge about the importance of animals' existence and protection. We can see that Indonesia is still one of the countries that sell animals illegally regardless of conditions and consider the impact that will occur. So the people who have a care for wild animals and environmental sustainability are needed. Therefore COP makes a program which is currently the main program that is educating the community, especially for children under 17 years. Educating the community, especially children, is considered will be able to raise a sense of concern for the children of the environment and children already know the dangers of environmental sustainability is not maintained early on. In carrying out this program, COP engage with small community activists to take part in educating the community so that environmental sustainability is maintained.

Educating the community is considered will foster empathy that exists in the community so that the entire community can be together maintaining animal conservation and environmental sustainability. Because if we want to care for and interact directly with animals, it can be done with animal in captivity.

## V. CONCLUSION

Indonesia is a country that has abundant wealth both in flora and fauna by having various types that are spread throughout Indonesia. Therefore it needs the public awareness to preserve the flora and fauna. Center for Orangutan Protection (COP) is a NGO that works for the preservation, handling, saving the environment so that the environment can be sustainable. COP was established on 1 March 2007. COP was established as a form of concern of some people for the environment to protect and preserve it. Because at this time there are many irresponsible people who carry out illegal activities such as hunting, trading animals and others. COP stands to prevent the occurrence of these activities. To prevent and overcome these activities, COP has a program which is considered to be able to preserve the environment. The program that was launched was defending our forest, rescue rehabilitation and release and education to public.

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