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DESIGNING ACTION WITHIN CONCESSION

17 - 24 May 2017

The winding road to the Kawasan Strategis Kabupaten (KSK) Agropolitan or Agropolitan District Strategic Area (DSA) of Kapuas Hulu was increasingly challenging. Following the initial steps that have been done, now brilliant ideas erupted, starting with the activity detail plan, the preparation of high resolution spatial image data, to the preliminary survey.

The effort is still based on a common desire to encourage sustainable economic practice in Agropolitan DSA of Kapuas Hulu. This sustainable economic principle is seen as one of the development concepts that can optimize the use of space, efficient use of natural resources, and reduction of ecological risk. This sustainable economic approach offers a new scheme in the management of natural resources. Both play a very important role in supporting the welfare of the community. Of course, while maintaining the carrying capacity of the environment.

There is no choice but to build a common perception for all stakeholders. Perception that good treatment of natural resources and the environment will have a positive impact on economic and social systems. Thus, it will also provide positive feedback on the environmental system.

This is not a simple “toy”. Special skills are required in designing the steps forward so as not to miss the expected target. As an escort agency, WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program tries to configure three major agendas. They aim to prepare a work plan, prepare spatial data, and build an initial information base on landscape typology, land use, and secondary data collection at the Agropolitan DSA area.

In the process of developing the work plan, WWF involves experts from the School of Architecture, Planning, and Policy Development (SAPPK) of ITB. While the spatial data preparation process involves BAPPEDA Kapuas Hulu, Geospatial Information Agency, and National Aeronautics and Space Agency (Lapan). In the preliminary survey, WWF-Indonesia brought along experts from SAPPK ITB and Technical Team of Kapuas Hulu Agropolitan DSA.

At the preliminary survey stage, the team applied field observation and discussion methods. Field observations were undertaken to build a framework for understanding of landscape typology, land use, regional contours, and natural resources. While discussions were conducted with the intention of collecting secondary data, both at the subdistrict and district levels.

The preparation of the work plan of the Agropolitan DSA was held on May 4, 2017 at the SAPPK ITB Meeting Room. Spatial data preparation was conducted on 8 - 9 May 2017 at BIG (Cibinong) and Lapan (Jakarta). The new preliminary survey took place on 17-24 May 2017 in Putussibau and seven subdistricts of Agropolitan DSA.

AGENDA DESIGN

None of the activities were undertaken without prior planning. WWF-Indonesia subsequently conducted technical discussions on the preparation of the Agropolitan DSA documentation during a workshop in Putussibau on May 10, 2017. A number of WWF and non-WWF staff were involved in the discussions. They were Amri Yahya, Hendri Ziasmono, Siti Sadida Hafsyah, Princess Meigina Sonia, and Rosa Silaban.



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Discussion between ITB expert team with WWF-Indonesia about KSK Agropolitan

In the discussions, they discussed the workshop details planned to be held on May 16, 2017. Starting from the condition of the region, the concept of green economy, the Agropolitan DSA area survey plan, and exploring the aspirations and inputs of the stakeholders.

The important thing explored in the discussions was the presentation of ITB consultant team that would be presented at the Agropolitan DSA Workshop on May 16, 2017. Similarly, the points would be raised in the press conference on May 15, 2017, as well as survey and data collecting. Furthermore, the discussions also explored sharing of perception on Agropolitan DSA and green economy scheme which would be applied by the Technical Team of Agropolitan DSA and

the consultant team from ITB. In addition, the consultant team would submit data that would be collected after the workshop was held.

Another thing that became hot topic in the discussion was the description of regional conditions in the Agropolitan DSA Plan of Kapuas Hulu that would be provided by a technical team from the Government of Kapuas Hulu. While the presentation on the concept of green economy and survey plan would be submitted by a team comprising ITB experts and WWF-Indonesia.

Preparatory discussions held from 10-14 May 2017 involved ITB Expert Team, Technical Team of Agropolitan DSA, and WWF-

Indonesia. This discussions then resulted in a number of agreements. Especially for preparation of Workshop on preparation of Kapuas Hulu Agropolitan DSA Document the discussion also explored working mechanism, requirement, and output. Including the involvement of workshop participants such as Bupati Kapuas Hulu, DSA Agropolitan Technical Team, all local government agencies in Kapuas Hulu, oil palm and rubber companies, sub-district governments and NGOs with the same work focus. In the workshop also was agreed to make press conference with local media.

Another thing discussed was the technical management of the baseline survey in the seven sub-districts. In the discussion, it was



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The group is waiting for the pontoon crossing in Silat Hilir

agreed that the ITB experts would be divided into three teams of lecturers. The first team includes three lecturers and one assistant lecturer. This team's task was to orient all of the sub-districts in Agropolitan DSA. The second and third teams consisted of three assistant lecturers.

The first and second team departed in the direction of the northern access route to Empanang, Silat Hilir, and Silat Hulu subdistricts. The first team did a general field orientation. After three sub-districts were properly oriented, the team would continue their journey to other sub-districts. The second team would remain in the three districts for a longer period. They would be in charge in collecting data. Next they would observe other sub-districts in general. The second team would collect data in Semitau, Seberuang, Hulu Gurung, and Pengkadan subdistricts, before observing the other three sub-districts in general. Total time for survey and initial data collection was five days. But the first team was expected to finish first.

After the field survey was undertaken, the next step was to collect secondary data in the regional government organizations, particularly the offices associated with the Agropolitan DSA in Putussibau.

The area of Agropolitan DSA involved was expected to have forest still. One of the things to do was to survey biodiversity aspects to see the values of representative

biodiversity, especially related to water ecosystem services (descriptively) and flora fauna information, especially in protected areas and forested areas (existing, not just on the basis of functions).



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Delik Hudalah from ITB visiting the arowana cultivation location

AIMING AT TARGET

As planned, the preliminary survey began on May 17-20, 2017 in seven sub-districts of Agropolitan DSA. For time efficiency, the team was split into two parts. The first team conducted a survey and observed four sub-districts.

That were Hulu Gurung, Pengkadan, Seberuang, and Semitau. While the second team did the same in Empanang, Silat Hilir, and Silat Hulu subdistrict.

In the second team, the participants involved in the survey consisted of representatives of WWF-Indonesia and the SAPPK ITB Expert Team. They were Rahmat Hafiz and Siti Sadida Hafsyah from WWF-Indonesia. While from SAPPK ITB Alvaryan Maulana, Tessa Talitha, and Hilda Arum Nurbayanti.

The survey aimed at observing and collecting preliminary data as a general description of all sub-districts included in the Agropolitan DSA of Kapuas Hulu. The team observed the sub-districts and visited the sub-district office to obtain primary data (interview) from the subdistrict officials, agricultural field extension, and village representatives, and collected secondary data



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The Survey team collected data and information at the site level

EMPANANG

The survey team began moving to Empanang Subdistrict office on May 17, 2017. There were Bani, Section Head of People's Welfare, Philip, Section Head of Government, and Vincent, companion in Family of Hope Program.



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Meet the stakeholders at KSK Agropolitan Kapuas Hulu

Through these three resources, the team explored some of the data needed, both geographically and demographically. Generally, Empanang Sub-district is inhabited in majority by people with Iban, Kantuk, and Malay origin.

However, the population data, the type of work, and so on were not yet complete. Not all villages had submitted their population data to the subdistrict government. It is precisely this that causes population data at the subdistrict level cannot be well registered.

Related to the existing commodities, Empanang Sub-district had oil palm, rubber, pepper, pig, and chicken. But cultivation of cattle was often attacked by disease.

The survey team also found the fact that paddy field scheme was incompatible with Empanang Subdistrict condition. Previously,

local residents had tried but failed because of difficult irrigation constraints.

This condition led people to work as laborers in the palm oil company in the morning until noon, and farming in the afternoon until evening. One reason residents switched from rubber to oil palm due to weather constraints and rubber prices that often plummeted.

As a reward from work as a daily paid laborer, the residents received a wage of approximately Rp 72 thousand per day. While being a rubber farmer, residents could only reap income of about Rp500 thousand per month. Therefore, residents chose to become laborers in palm oil companies of PT Karya Manunggal and PT Kencana Group. Both companies were subsidiaries of Sinar Mas Group.

Related to the facilities and infrastructure owned, Empanang District was somewhat less fortunate. Communication means difficult. Similarly, clean water, was still far from expectations. The water source from the river had been contaminated with the company's waste.

Empanang also had no terminals, markets, and landfills. Residents only solved waste problem by burning or throwing them into the river.

Similarly, the state road conditions, had been damaged. As long as the survey team observed, there was no sign of road repair from the company or government. So far, the only good road access was those built by the oil palm plantations within their concessions.

SILAT HILIR

Like marathon runner, after completing the survey in Empanang Subdistrict, the team went straight to Silat Hilir Subdistrict on May 18, 2017. There, they met face to face with Agustina, Section Head of Government, Munajib as Executing Duty (Plt) of Silat Hilir Head Officer, and Fathur, Village Secretary of Miau Merah.



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Not only oral information, the survey team also collects written data in the Kecamatan

The survey found some much needed data. For example, that the locals in majority either worked on their farm and became casual labors in palm oil companies. The residents farmed for private consumption or marketed to Sintang to buy other necessities. While the residents of ex-transmigration sold it to local population. The palm oil workers in Silat Hilir were paid about Rp68 thousand per day.

Viewed from the commodity side, Silat Hilir had oil palm including empty bunch waste for fertilizer, rubber, vegetable, paddy (field), bird nests, arowana fish, bawal fish, cat fish, and gold fish. These commodities were cultivated in the Sena River Village and Miau Merah Village. Silat Hilir already had a plasma oil palm cooperative. It's just that there is no independent

palm growers cooperative. Silat Hilir sub-district was somewhat lucky to receive the paddy field program from Kapuas Hulu Government. The program targeted a number of villages such as Rubi Village, Seberu Village, and Nanga Nuan Village.

Based on the survey team's notes, there were five villages in Silat Hilir that cultivated arowana fish. The villages were Perigi Village, New Village, Miau Merah Village, Pangeran Village, and Penai Village. The products of these activities were sold to collectors who already owned legal status. Most buyers came from Suhaid Village.

Unfortunately, the habit of throwing waste into the river is still there until now. As a result, when dry season arrives, the effects

of this environmentally hostile behavior will be obvious. The river and the residential areas look slummy.

According to the assessment made by the survey team the suitable agropolitan center would be Silat Hilir subdistrict and its surroundings. The hope was that people did not depend on palm oil. The data of existing ponds and commodities in Silat Hilir was available in the Statistical Data in Numbers. Silat Hilir had traditional leaders consisted of one Malay *Punggawa* and two Dayak *Temenggung*.

Silat Hilir also had a number of protected areas scattered in Bongkong, Nanga Nuan, and Seberu. While customary forest and *tembawang* (abandoned settlements) were found in Sungai

Putat and Penai villages. There was also a protected lake in Desa Baru that had been gazetted by the District Head of Kapuas Hulu.

Particularly in Miao Merah Village, there were three groups of palm oil plantations that were currently operating. The three components were the company, the plasma farmers, and the independent growers.

The independent farmers sold their palm to Sanggau because the existing factory in Silat Hilir has its own quota (40-50 tons per month). While independent farmers, some had up to 50 hectares per family. The oil palm company operating in this village was PT RAP.

The future discourse was the establishment of BUMDes (Village Government Enterprise) program. This program was intended to

coordinate the oil palm growers in order to sell their crops not too far away. The minimum targeted product was 40-50 tons per month for sustainable independent palm oil production.

The village of Miao Merah is still constrained by the village funds that are never liquid because there are still other villages that have not done the reporting. In fact, the village has already conducted participatory mapping, and will issue a village regulation related to oil palm land clearing.

The village also has a high biodiversity. It was characterized by the existence of conservation areas such as waterfalls or *sarai*. This waterfall became the village *embung* (reservoir), as the source of the springs. Of no less interesting, Miao Merah Village apparently already had a home

industry with its commodity products of sweet potato chips. This home product had penetrated a very wide market up to Sintang District. There was also a beverage packaging of lakum fruit. The fruit grew wildly on the river banks in the village of Miao Lama, but has not been cultivated.

Related to road condition, the status is prone to damage due to traffic of heavy vehicle. Thus, local residents need to control the load capacity in accordance with the endurance of the road segment. Residents intended to make a protest, but it would violate local regulations.



Palm landscape in Silat Hilir sub-district

SILAT HULU

After surveying Empanang and Silat Hilir subdistricts, now it is Silat Hulu's turn to be the next target. They moved from Silat Hilir to Silat Hulu on May 19, 2017 with the same purpose. Namely observe and dig a number of data required in the process of composing the Agropolitan DSA document.



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Information extracting process conducted by Tessa Talitha and Hilda Arum Nurbayyanti from SAPPK ITB in Nanga Ngeri and Nanga Lungun Villages

Tessa Talitha and Hilda Arum Nurbayyanti from SAPPK ITB met Ferdinand, Section Head of Government, and Ningkan, PPL Agriculture Extension Officer for Nanga Ngeri and Nanga Lungun Villages. The interview process took place in a family atmosphere.

As a result, the team was informed that the dominant livelihood of Silat Hulu was working in palm oil company.

Residents used the time from morning until noon working daily as oil palm casual laborers. The rest of the time was used for farming.

The commodities in this area were palm, rubber, pepper, chili, rice (for consumption), corn, cassava, soybean (seasonal), fresh fish, and bird nests. Of the variety of commodities in the area, only chili was marketed to Sintang. Other crops were grown for their own consumption.

As a harvest laborer in the oil palm plantation, residents receive a wage of about Rp86 thousand per day. This condition was considered very helpful to the residents in sustaining day to day family living.

Moreover, the condition of the soil in Silat Hulu was less suitable for rice growing because the land is hilly and bumpy. This was also triggered by the exclusion of this area in the wet rice and irrigation programs of the government.

Another problem faced was how to change the mindset of the people from land rotation into permanent rice fields. This was still influenced by strong customs. Among them were not to sell rice, and not to plant in March or April.

With regard to capacity building, the Silat Hulu Subdistrict Government had conducted rubber agribusiness training. The program was organized in cooperation with *Lembaga Gemawan* in Nanga Ngeri Village, Dangan Kota, and Banajak. Including program of clean rubber production to increase selling price.

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The Survey team visited the pepper plantation owned by the residents of Silat Hulu

FOLLOW UP PLAN

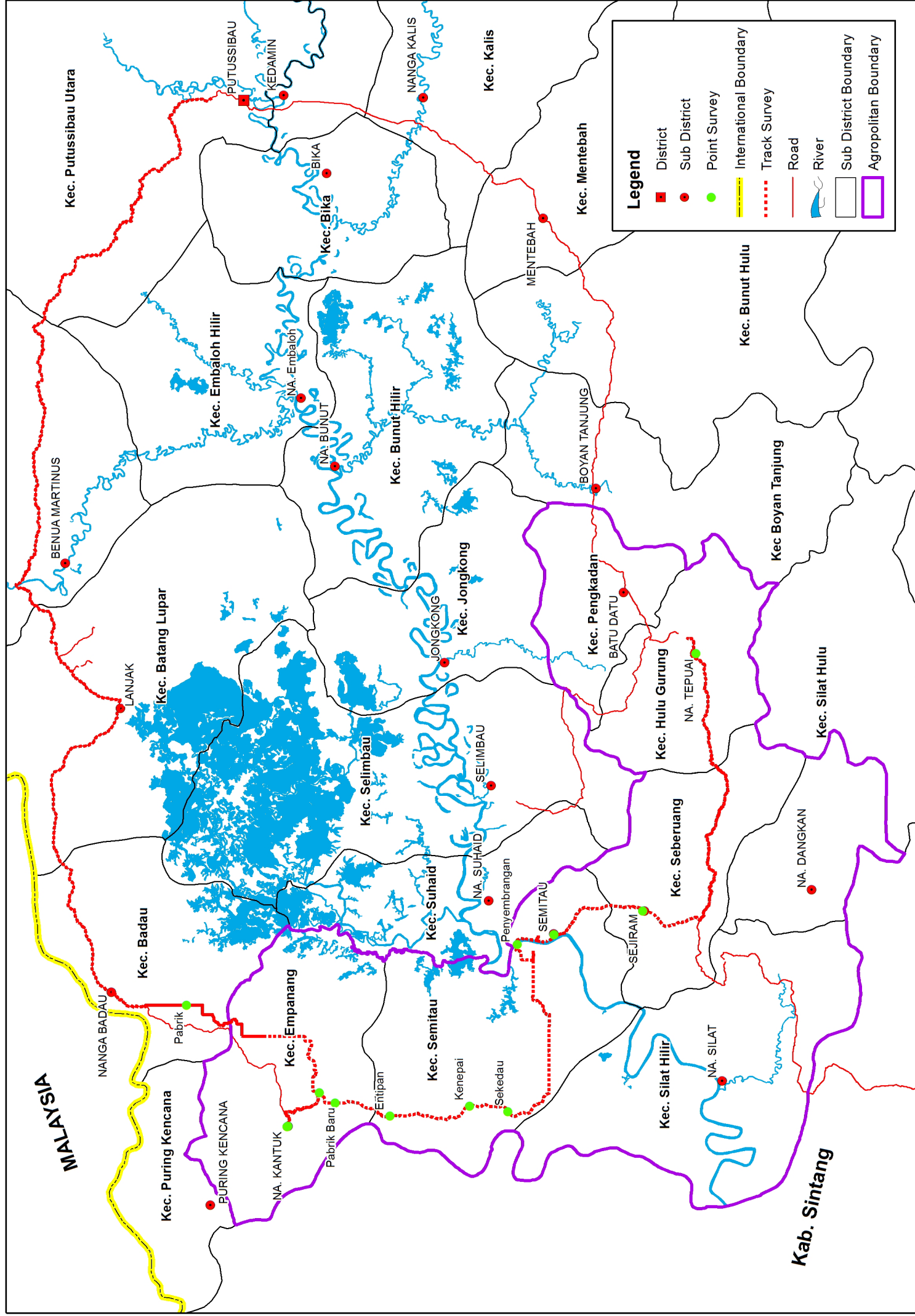
After completing all sub-districts within the Agropolitan DSA, the whole team developed a follow-up plan. Including extended data collection. The results of the preliminary survey analysis conducted by the consultant team (SAPPK ITB) and the data collection methods to be applied need to be followed up.

Points of interest and potential that can be developed in the Agropolitan program need to be observed. The socialization of the Agropolitan DSA needs to be done deeper so that all resource persons would know about the Agropolitan DSA program before the data collection process is done.



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Discussion of the consolidation of the preliminary survey plan at the Putussibau project office



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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature

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