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TIGHTENING THE NETWORK KNOT

Field Trip to Agropolitan District Strategic Area In Kapuas Hulu

The long road toward the Agropolitan KSK (Kawasan Strategis Kabupaten) or District Strategic Area (DSA) scheme of Kapuas Hulu District was a necessity. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Regent of Kapuas Hulu AM Nasir and Manager of WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program, Albertus Tjiu on 19th April 2016 a number of scenarios was developed.

Coordinating measures in preparation of a plan document for the Agropolitan DSA was under way. Nine months later, the new coordination plan was realized. Exactly on January 25th 2017, seven members of WWF team and 30 participants from the Regional Government Department (*Organisasi Perangkat Daerah* or *OPD*) of Kapuas Hulu held a meeting in the Hall of *Bappeda* (Regional Planning Board) of Kapuas Hulu.

The meeting discussed various issues including unifying perception, preparation of the work plan, and organizing a Coordination Team and a Technical Team. Both teams of the Agropolitan DSA had been established previously, but rearrangement was required since the *OPD* of Kapuas Hulu had undergone restructuring and changing in Main Duty and Function (*Tupoksi*).

The Technical Team of Agropolitan DSA Spatial Plan was established. Its members consisted of *OPD* Kapuas Hulu and representatives of WWF-Indonesia. The team then held a focused discussion in 6th-7th March 2017 at the office of WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program in Putussubau.

The meeting discussed the dynamics of changes in land use in the area of Agropolitan DSA. In addition, the Technical Team also analyzed the dynamics of economic and social policies in the area of Agropolitan DSA, as well as an intervention plan to accelerate implementation of a sustainable economy.

In view of the results of the two-day focused discussions, the Technical Team deemed it necessary to take steps in field verification. One of the steps was conducting a field trip to meet face to face with the people.

The field visit was conducted from Tuesday - Thursday, 21st to 23rd March, 2017 in the Subdistricts of Empanang, Semitau, Seberuang, Gurung Hulu, Silat Hilir, Silat Hulu, and Sub-district of Pengkadan.

The goal was to accumulate initial information about the typology of landscape and land use. In addition, the field trip was used as means of socialization of implementing sustainable economy scheme in the region of Agropolitan DSA.

In reference to the Spatial Plan of Kapuas Hulu District 2014, the Agropolitan DSA scheme chose to focus more on sustainable economic practices. It was seen as one of the concepts of development that could optimize space utilization, boost efficiency in utilization of natural resources (*SDA*), as well as reducing ecological risks.

The sustainable economic approach offers a new scheme in natural resource management. Among others the environmental services development is considered very important in supporting the welfare of community. This scheme can be implemented by maintaining the environmental carrying capacity.

Over the last thirty years, the natural resources and environmental services have been viewed solely in terms of production factors. Natural resources are external factors that are not considered as one of the capital in the process of economic and social development. In reality, however, these factors have a value other than commodity prices resulted from the *SDA*.

Good quality environment does not only provide continuous flow of goods and services on the economy, but also contributes positively to the social system such as improved health, clean air, and beauty.

This is, of course, in line with the principles of sustainable development that emphasizes not only economic aspect and welfare, but also sustainability of natural resources and environment. Good treatment of the natural resources and the environment will have a positive impact on economic and social system and will provide positive feedback to the environmental system.

One way to make interaction between natural capital and economic system more sustainable is by applying the principles of sustainable economy. Particularly in sectors that have major impact on welfare of the people who use land extensively.

By developing a number of the incentive mechanisms in sectors of sustainable agribusiness, pressure on the environment will be reduced, it will also generate sustainable economic benefits to the agri-industrial sector. The incentive on the community-based economy will also help implementation of green economy in smaller land spans, particularly at the village level, and at the same time reducing pressure on natural capital and the environment.

Based on the issues and problems that occur, development of the Agropolitan using the principles of sustainable economy is an alternative solution to problem inherent in integrated development of the region (rural). In this regard, WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program is committed to encourage the *DSA Agropolitan* scheme. In preparation for implementation of the program it is necessary to draw up a plan that includes Agropolitan sustainable economic master plan, spatial planning for Agropolitan and agropolitan policy plan.



Bukit Beluan forest in the morning, Hulu Gurung Sub-District.

LIFTING THE CURTAIN OF SEVEN SUB-DISTRICTS

The clock had just pointed to seven, but the bustle in the Office of Regional Development Planning Board (Bappeda) Kapuas Hulu already noticeable. A number of four-wheeled vehicles were prepared. Dozens of people were also present with backpacks on their backs.



This is the condition of community land managed by the people of Dusun Entipan, Selupai Village, Semitau District. The village is flanked by hills rich in biodiversity. Residents use clean water flowing from Kenepai Hill.

They were members of the Technical Team for Preparation of Detailed Spatial Plan for Agropolitan DSA of Kapuas Hulu. The members of The Technical Team were appointees from the Regional Government Departments (*OPD*) of Kapuas Hulu and WWF-Indonesia representatives.

In just 30 minutes, the team led by Budi Prasetyo, Head of Physical Infrastructure and Regional Development of *Bappeda* Kapuas Hulu was soon heading for a target destination.

Five four-wheeled vehicles rolled on along the northern access road of Kapuas Hulu. The roads were narrow and winding forcing the vehicles to cruise with an average speed of 60 kilometers per hour.

The group decided to stop and rest in a small shop in the hamlet of Sadap within the village of Manua Sadap. Early morning breakfast with a cup of coffee and snacks were reasonably good antidote for the tough journey ahead.

The team moved on to Badau, Indonesia-Malaysia border in Kapuas Hulu. The winding path flanked by hills on both sides offered its own charm to the passers-by.

After driving for about four hours, the group arrived at Badau. The small town at the national border was selected as a place to have lunch before proceeding to Sub-district of Semitau.



Field Trip participants were having lunch at Nanga Badau.

"The mid-section" had been filled up, now the cars turn to get fueled up with gasoline or diesel fuel, so that the trip would not be hampered by fuel shortage. Refueling did not post any problem because in Badau there was one Gas Station that was ready to provide what the cars needed.

The journey then continued. This time, the condition of the road started to break down. Potholes found here and there gave the drivers no alternative other than driving through. Until in one place, the group paused. As far as the eye could see, vast oil palm plantation spread out to the horizon.

A security guard came out of the sentry and immediately opened a wooden gate to provide road access to the concession.

At this point, the state road ended. From here on there was no longer means that connected the northern and southern parts of Kapuas Hulu. The only access road available passed through the oil palm plantation concession of PT Sawit Kencana Kapuas, passing through the reddish brown dusty dirt road.

At one place, Budi Prasetyo invited the whole group to stop. The whole team got out of the car and looked at the landscape of oil palm covering the whole area. There were two different views. On one side newly planted oil palm trees forming straight and equally spaced young palm trees, and on the other side a sad view of poorly maintained old palm trees.

"We have entered the Sub-district of Empanang. The village is called Batu Ampar. Here, the people plant oil palm sporadically. Not well managed" said Sudirman, member of the Technical Team from the Fishery Department.

According to him, the majority of local residents lived from farming, and cultivating rubber, oil palm, and pepper. They still used shifting cultivation.



Field Trip participants when conducting field observations in a palm oil plantation concession.



Entipan sub village, Selupai Village, one of the settlement areas around oil palm plantation concessions.

While the fishery sector had not been managed properly. The only managed fishery project if any was limited to fish farming owned by private company. In the rubber plantation area the residents also plant cassava tubers.

After about 15 minutes, the group continued moving toward Semitau. They were traveling along dusty road, moving cautiously between big trucks hauling CPO, heavy vehicles, and workers who were harvesting fresh fruit bunches (FFB) or just clearing the land.

At exactly 14.30 PM, the group entered the concession of PT Kapuasindo Palm Industry in Semitau. Houses started to appear. All around the village there were green hills. The name is Kenepai Hill Complex. At the foothills runs a river called Entipan. The name of the river is adopted as the name of Entipan Hamlet. This little village is predominated with oil palm landscape and located within the village of Selupai, Sub-district of Semitau.

At Entipan Hamlet the team made a stop to visit to the residence of Hermanus Bindap (36). Everyday, the father of three children worked in tapping rubber and farming.

“Some one from the oil palm plantation had come here. He said he want to make rice farm. Each family can have 500 square meters. But until now there has been no follow-up. Perhaps because the peat soil is up to four meters deep” said Hermanus.

Another thing raised by Hermanus was clean water. He acknowledged that local residents had already enjoyed clean water in their homes thanks to the assistance of the Government of Kapuas Hulu. “We have a 150-meter high waterfall. That is the source of our fresh water. The distance from the village is not too far. It only takes 30 minutes on foot” he said,

After talking with residents of Entipan, the group then traveled to the capital town of Semitau. But the challenges were increasingly heavy during the trip. The road in the oil palm plantation concessions seemed to have no end. Crossroads existed everywhere. Thus, when one made a wrong turn, the result was getting lost in the endless rows of palm trees.

Luckily there were road signs which could lead drivers to the intended direction. The group finally arrived safely in Semitau after spending a full day on the trip. The entourage stayed at the Kharisma Lodge.

After dinner, the whole team including all members of the Technical Team held a meeting to prepare for the agenda for the next day. Budi Prasetyo was appointed to replace Acting Head of Bappeda Kapuas Hulu to give a speech. Furthermore, two members of the Technical Team, Sudirman and M Munawir made their presentations in front of the village head. While Dwi Kusharyono was appointed as moderator.



Condition of road infrastructure connecting Nanga Badau to Semitau in Kapuas Hulu district.

THE KNOT OF AGROPOLITAN

A meeting with the village heads and community leaders from the Subdistricts of Empanang, Seberuang, Silat Hilir, and Sub-district of Semitau held on March 22, 2017, was a tough one. The meeting was held at the Sub-district Office of Semitau, after three hours of discussions a new color in dynamics of village administration emerged.



Landscape at sunset in Semitau Sub-District.

In the beginning, the Head of Physical Infrastructure and Regional Development Budi Prasetyo read the speech of Acting Head of Bappeda Kapuas Hulu who was unable to attend. Budi said that the Agropolitan DSA was a mandate of Law No. 26/2007 on Spatial Planning. In addition, there was also Regional Law No. 1/2014 about RTRWK Kapuas Hulu 2014-2034 as a foothold for Agropolitan DSA of Silat Hilir and surrounding areas.

According to Budi, this event was one of the preparatory activities leading toward producing RTR document for Agropolitan DSA of Kapuas Hulu. An Agropolitan can be defined as a region consisted of one or more activity centers in rural areas. The area could be an agricultural production systems or management of certain natural resource. The management of the areawere usually overlapping with the functional and hierarchical settlement units and agribusiness concessions.

The size of the DSA Agropolitan of Kapuas Hulu, Budi said, reached 488 664 hectares. The scope of the area included seven Sub-districts namely Silat Hilir, Silat Hulu, Semitau, Empanang, Hulu Gurung, Seberuang, and Pengkadan.

Budi added, in formulating the Agropolitan DSA Spatial Plan document, Government of Kapuas Hulu received assistance from WWF-Indonesia. The basis of the collaboration was the Memorandum of Cooperation No. 660/10 / MoU / Bappeda / TOF-B / 2016 dated April 19, 2016.

The Secretary of Semitau Sub-district, H Mas Hidayat welcomed the Technical Team in the middle of the citizens of Semitau. He said, efforts had been made by the government at the district level in relation to the agropolitan concept.

“In Tua’ Abang Village, we already have a pilot land for agriculture. Three kilograms of seeds have been planted. Four months later we harvested. We will also try ginger. This is one example that can be developed in Semitau” said Mas Hidayat.

Nevertheless, he mentioned that it was importance to increase the capacity of communities in sustainable management of the natural resources. This was so, because the land in Sub-district of Semitau was dominated by oil palm plantations. Therefore it was necessary to increase the capacity of human resource for its management.

FISHING FOR IDEAS FROM THE VILLAGE

In the next stage, Sudirman started his presentation on the planning of Agropolitan DSA in Kapuas Hulu. One of the important things in the material submitted was the purpose of the meeting with the village leaders, namely preparation of Agropolitan DSA plan for sustainable economic scheme in Kapuas Hulu.



The Technical Team for Spatial Planning of Agropolitan district strategic area is conducting socialization of the program with representatives from Semitau, Empanang, Seberuang and Silat Hilir Sub-districts.

While the targets to be achieved in addition to describing the plan and development programs in the Agropolitan sustainable economic scheme, also description of DSA strategy in the Agropolitan Detailed Spatial Plan, as well as space policy directives as guidelines for Agropolitan DSA spatial planning.

Furthermore, Sudirman explained how the concept of sustainable economic based Agropolitan would be done in the midst of society. Starting from the institutional, spatial, social, to economic. He presented the material in about 20 minutes. The participants from the four Sub-districts appeared to pay serious attention.

Further on, M Munawir took the second turn to deliver his presentation. A representative of WWF-Indonesia in the Technical Team delivered a model of economic development in Kapuas Hulu District. In addition to regulation, he also focused on economic aspects of sustainable development in his presentation to the audience.



Head of Physical, Infrastructure and Regional Development of Kapuas Hulu district planning agency, Budi Prasetyo gave a speech in the socialization of Agropolitan district strategic area program.



The use of firewood for daily needs causes the level of dependency of Selupai villagers to the forest is still quite high.

Starting from the potentials, management direction, position of the DSA, to sustainable principles that needed to be adopted. Presentation by Munawir received positive response from heads of the villages.

After the presentation, the discussion session led by the moderator Dwi Kusharyono began. Some village chiefs raised their hands. Dwi provided the first opportunity to Taufiqurrahman, Chief of Marsedan Raya Village.

“As village head I welcome and thank the government and WWF who plan to educate the residents. The most important thing for me is to change the mindset of society towards the better” he initiated the discussions.

It is a reasonable statement, because in many parts of Marsedan Raya there are wastelands. The land can actually be planted with Areca Nut from Thailand, and the product can penetrate the world market. Then cassava also is rated as highly prospective. However, there is one constraint facing development of this commodity in Kapuas Hulu since no processing plant existed in this area.

Looking ahead, Taufiqurrahman promised to establish a village-owned enterprise (BUMDs) so that a number of commodities produced the citizens could be managed properly.

Another question came up from Augustinus, Village Head of Bati, Seberuang Sub-district. He provided a geographical overview of the village and mentioned that the village had already owned a village map as the results of participatory mapping. Bati village also had mapped out the existing land. Starting from rice fields, settlements, indigenous forests, and oil palm concessions. Bati village total area reached 4,185 hectares. He asked whether there was a benchmark that could be used in establishing the Agropolitan DSA.

While the Village Head of Ranyai, Alfonsius Antin was more focused on the potential of agriculture in the village. He hoped the government would develop the horticulture sector.



The unavailability of the connecting bridge made the Field Trip Team cross the Kapuas River using existing facilities.



One of the Technical Team Member, M Munawir during a presentation on a sustainable development scheme.

Budi Prasetyo answered a number of questions from the Village Heads. According to him, what were presented by the Village Heads were highly appreciated by the Technical Team “The village Headmen have told us how the conditions of land use in their respective villages. That point is very important to us” he said.

According to Budi, there were four things that needed to be addressed in the context of agropolitan scheme. The four elements included institution, space, social, and economic. All boiled down to the welfare of the community.

He also reminded that the position of the Agropolitan DSA was imbedded in RPJM of a City/District. Ideally, this scheme also should appear at the level of RPJM-Des (Village Middle Range Development Plan) , so that could see the achievement of development at the village level.

Munawir added that the suggestions voiced by the village heads were good ones. Especially, if all of the villages already had there own participatory mapping results. It was very clear that such efforts had achieved status of legal standing. “With regard to the question of Mr. Antin, I think any commodity if it complies with the soil characteristics can be developed, including in horticulture,” he said.

Other member of the Technical Team, Sudirman was focusing more on response to input from

Taufiqurrahman. According to him, it was a good input. “The village can also take steps on their own capacity. For example, by using village funds for enhancement of self-reliance” he said.

In relation to RPJM-Des and participatory mapping in Kapuas Hulu, the Landscape Leader of WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program, Anas Nasrullah added that a number of government functions had been delegated by the District Head to the village government. “We recommend that the village government prepare Perdes (village regulation) as the foundation for mapping and preparation of RPJM-Des,” he said.

The discussion continued. Dwi Kusharyono initiated the next sessions and invited the Village Heads to ask questions or give their comments. Spontaneously, this opportunity was not wasted by Syaiful Nadjib, Secretary of Silat Hilir Sub-district. According to him, Kapuas Hulu RTRW already placed the territory as Agropolitan DSA. “Our region is already filled with oil palms, from south to north. What else could we build” he said.

The next input came from Gusti Bulhari Djazuli, Head of Desa Baru of Silat Hilir Sub-district. According to him, the Village had done participatory mapping and a HCV team was at work doing research on area potentials. “We want to know the details of the existing biodiversity in the village and soon will established a BUMDes,” he said.

Unfortunately, said Djazuli, PT RAP operating in the village did not want to cooperate with the village. In the context of Agropolitan, he asked for government support in agriculture and irrigation.

Another thing was also expressed by Antonius, Village Head of Emperiang who claimed that his village had conducted participatory mapping. In the protected forest area, there was an interesting place for tourism. He was just waiting for the appropriate strategy to support the tourism program in order to generate local income.

The secretary of Empanang Sub-district, Bani mentioned the availability of clean water resource that had not been flowing up till now. “The land in Empanang is 80 percent oil palm. Is there compensation from the company for the community? The road to the village is so bad. We are also in desperate need for electricity” he said.

Answering a barrage of questions as above, Munawir said that the government has a program called the System Integration between Cows with Palm (Siska). Oil palm plantation can be intercropped with watermelon, eggplant, and peppers. While the waste from oil palm could be processed into fodder.

In Sintang, Munawir said, the price of a truckload of “empty fruit bunches” reached Rp600 thousand and mostly used as fertilizer or animal feed. “With regard to CSR, the Technical Team can possibility help facilitate. What the community needs and what the obligations of the company” he said.

Budi Prasetyo added that the village should propose programs through *Musrenbang* (Meeting for Development Planning). Currently he admitted that the government had not involve the private sector. But later, after knowing the outcome of this meeting there would be a follow-up agenda, including involving the company as participant. This would answer earlier questions related to possible donation from the CSR.

While Dwi Kusharyono suggested that the village government should look for their own priority product independently. This could be done by connecting the results of the participatory mapping with the finding potential spots for tourism in the protected forest.

Other member of the Technical Team, Amri Yahya added that some rural programs were emerging. In the eyes of Amri, one of the interesting things that needed to be sharpened was an idea in the travel sector. In this case, the tours had educational value. One of them was agro-tourism.

“So we can educate travelers how to plant, sow the seeds, and so on. So, there must be multiple attractions. Combined with the potential of forest areas. Especially if it is adjacent to the national park. Some examples already exist in Batang Lupar. There is one model of ecotourism village which is now often have guests,” said Amri, ending the discussion with the Village Heads of the four Sub-districts.



Newly planted palm oil plantation area, according to informants in the field this area will be used as a plasma plantation.

MOVING TO NANGA TEPUAI

After carrying out its mission in Semitau, the Technical Team group immediately proceeded to Nanga Tepuai, Wednesday (22/03/2017). Although the condition of most roads was somewhat damaged, the journey to the capital of Hulu Gurung was felt lighter.



Tepuai Landscape is flanked by verdant hills. Hulu Gurung sub district still has forest cover which provide daily needs of the people and also can be utilized through environmental services such as water sources for wetland farming.

There was no longer yellow dust flying around like in the way through the oil palm concessions. Throughout the trip, what they could see were people's settlements interspaced with a landscape of towering green hills. One of the towering green hills was Bukit Biru. This hill served as a prominent gate marking the entrance to Nanga Tepuai area.

The two hour trip from Semitau ended at the home of Head of Hulu Gurung Sub-district, H Baharuddin. A cup of hot tea was quite sufficient to quell our thirst from the trip.

The reception proceeded in a family atmosphere. Amiable exchange between the Technical Team and Baharuddin filled the air. There was no rigid formality commonly marking difference in positions that become barrier between the guest and the host. "You should all stay here. As long as you don't mind to sleep on the floor" he said kindly.

However, the team had already arranged for a lodge, and eventually the group was split into two parts. Most of them stayed at the *Camat* home, while the rest stayed at Cantika lodge that had been reserved previously.

DIGGING FOR INFORMATION

It was still early, but the flurry of residents in Nanga Tepuai already looked heavy. Similarly, was the atmosphere at the Sub-district Office of Hulu Gurung. That morning, Thursday (03/23/2017), a number of Sub-district staff had begun to prepare for the meeting room.



Shifting cultivation is one of the land use by the community at the foot of Beluan hill, Hulu Gurung Sub-district.

Gradually the guests came from two neighboring Sub-districts, Silat Hulu and Pengkadan. They were village leaders who would share information with the Technical Team.

The *Camat* of Hulu Gurung, Baharuddin opened the meeting with a speech. According to him, this activity was very important for recognizing the potential of each area. Through visits to the DSA meeting, the village leaders could convey their ideas. “Who knows, we could be assisted in the development program,” he said.

According to Baharuddin, the natural resources were very rich in Kapuas Hulu. Every individual had an average land over one hectare. “How can the potential be polished in such a way to be useful for improving the local economy” he said.



Head of Hulu Gurung sub district H Baharuddin delivered a speech in the socialization of Agropolitan district strategic area in front of the village heads representative of Silat Hulu, Pengkadan, and Hulu Gurung Sub-District.



Enthusiasm of participants in socialization discussion of KSK Agropolitan Kapuas Hulu.

Baharuddin recognized that the society still resorted to wasteful practices, ranging from land, time, up to cost. In the future he hoped everything would run more effectively. Because, so far people had gone to work since dawn until afternoon, but had not been able to improve their welfare.

“We believe that this team that come from Bappeda and WWF have a keen ability in terms of empowerment. To take advantage of these activities as well as possible. God willing, it will be very helpful, that is the key” said baharudin.

The event continued with the presentation of other members of the Technical Team, Sudirman and M Munawir. Both provided the same material as they did in Semitau.

Rusli Kulya, Camat of Pengkadan was the first to present a number of problems in the region. “We just want to know what is the role of WWF related to Agropolitan DSA. Similarly, with the government, what kind of the program will be presented in the middle of communities living around the forest” he said.

He also hoped, there were supports that could be given to the residents. Especially in the agricultural sector, it would create positive impact on the economic of the citizens.

He also referred to earlier presentation that oil palm waste could be processed into something useful for the society. “It is necessary to enhance the community capacity. Because, in Pengkadan area five companies had come ranging from mining, oil palm, and timber plantations” he said.

Another participant who asked question was Sahadi, Head of Permata Village, Sub-district of Pengkadan. He asked for clarification related to the Agropolitan DSA. Including its foundation and consideration of the government to choose the seven Sub-districts as Agropolitan DSA.



The atmosphere of socialization in Hulu Gurung Head Office Hall.



Existing condition of land use in the form of rubber plantation by society in Hulu Gurung Sub-District.

While Sahari, Acting Head of Bugang Village, Hulu Gurung Sub-district only hoped the Agropolitan DSA program could be realized and with prior socialization to the villagers. “Our village has been measured by the mining company. We also have the potential of natural resources such as cassava and banana. But the price is very cheap. So please help developing our human resource so that all of the potential can become beneficial to enhance the welfare of society” he said.

Another thing was also expressed by the Chief of Kelakar Village, Sahrani. According to him, the village spatial planning was the authority of the village. But he thought all of the villages in Kapuas Hulu had not conducted spatial planning for their villages. “This year we will do the mapping. However, such move will violate the rule if the village conducted spatial planning ahead of the district government” he explained.

Sahrani mentioned that the village spatial planning was related to land use, village social maps, settlements, farm land, plantations, fishery, and others. All of these were not clear in Kelakar Village.

He asked the District Government to provide directives for conducting the village spatial mapping. For example, the size of rice field per individual farmer had not been clearly defined. Today, said Sahrani, the size of land tenure was merely made based on estimates.

“So we have not organized the existing potential. We’ve tried to enlist the help of WWF. If there is a mining concession coming to Kelakar village, our land must have been exhausted. So in the future I will ask the District Government to see this clearly” he said.

Responding to a number of inputs and questions from the village leaders, Munawir explained that WWF is a non-government organization that in general played a role to help society in sustainable development. Both in socioeconomic and environmental issues. One strategy was forming partnership with other parties.

“We are here to try to help the government improve community capacity. In practice, we analyze the opportunities gap. WWF’s role is in synergy with the government. At the site level, we provide assistantship. For example, in Kapuas Hulu we work to assist an ecotourism group at the village of Malemba” he said.

The second thing, said Munawir, the issue of compensation to the public for their efforts to protect the forest. There are things to keep in mind, if forests are not maintained properly then the people living around the forest who first to be affected. The Agropolitan focal point was sustainable economy.

Associated with the issue of changing people's mindset bought up by a question from Bugang Village, Munawir explained, this was the most complicated thing. There should be an attempt to understand the character of the people first before introducing measures to increase capacity.

Because, he continued, there were people who wanted to start something from scratch. There were also those who were willing to change, but there must be people who succeeded first. In fact, there were people who were plain apathists. That's the challenge.

“To Mr. Sahrani of Kelakar Village, I say the initiative to organize the village space is an encouraging statement. The rule already existed in the Law of Village Government. It will not be in conflict with any legal standing” he said.

Amri Yahya added that there were several points related to human resources and the role of international organization in supporting the efforts all this time. According to Amri, there were a number of schemes, existing between government to government. For example the FORCLIME and TFCA. The program was run in collaboratively between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of the United States.



One of the members of the Technical Team Amri Yahya in a discussion session with the village heads of Hulu Gurung, Pengkadan, and Silat Hulu Sub-District.

“Actually, all of these can be accessed by the public. The program that has been running for three years is expected to enter the Southern Part of Kapuas Hulu. While the carbon trading scheme has been successful in Ketapang, West Kalimantan,” said Amri.



The condition of former community cultivation which directly contiguous to the forest area in Hulu Gurung Sub-District.

He continued that the Agropolitan DSA plan had been conducted since 2011 at the same time as the revision of RTRWK Kapuas Hulu. At that time, it was revealed that local governments had full management authority on land uses for other purpose (APL). When we traced the area, it turned out it coincided with the seven Sub-districts as we know of now.

As to the human resource problem, continued Amri, there should be a more detailed description to make it more obvious where the capacity needed, which one that needed intake of technology, and so on. For example, the management of waste of oil palm required enhancement of community capacity as well as technological intervention.

“I think the Kelakar Village is a sufficiently good choice if there is an initiative to make arrangement for its space. So, when the Agropolitan DSA program starts to run, we will no longer have to start from zero,” said Amri.

Other Technical Team member, Sudirman referred back to comment made by Camat of Pengkadan Sub-district, Rusli, who questioned whether there was support from the government? According to Sudirman, once there was a plan to give subsidy by the central government for production of 70 hectare

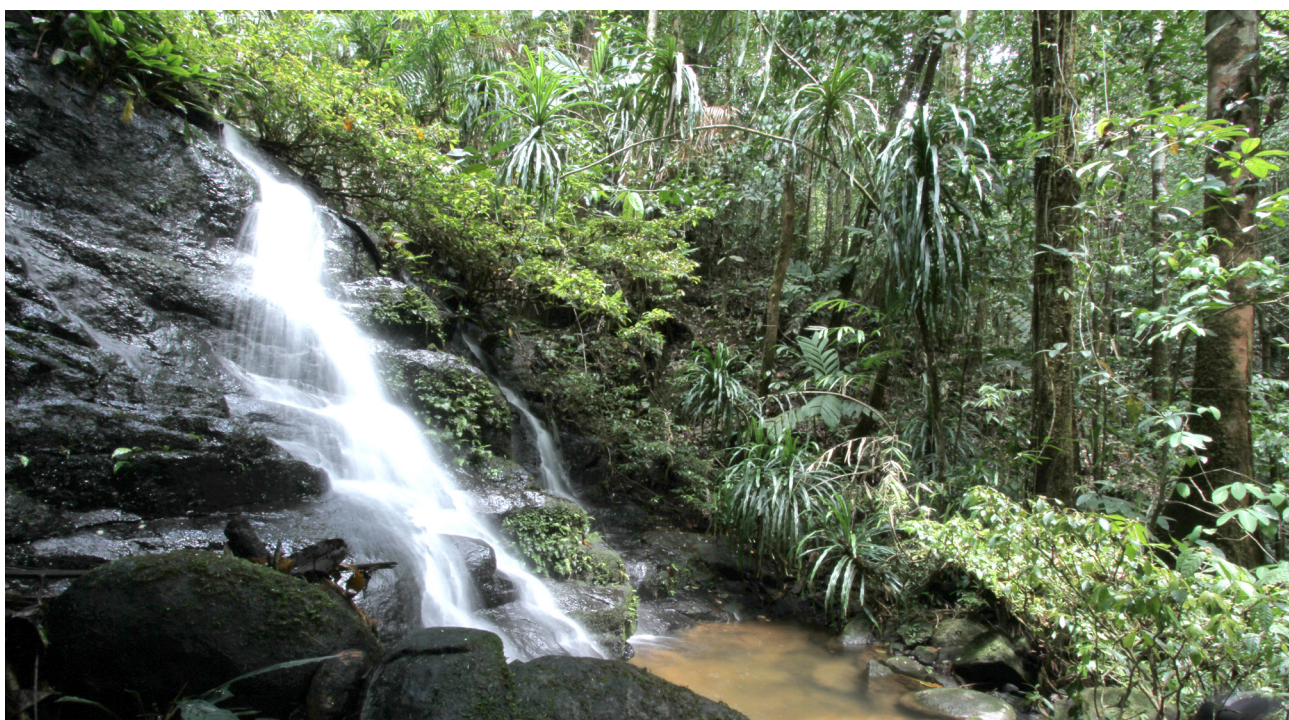
rice field in Hulu Gurung and Pengkadan Sub-districts.

However, said Sudirman, due to budget cut imposed by the Finance Department the plan for the subsidy was totally scrapped. Although, the Fishery Department had already provided aid for fish fry and feed.

Especially for oil palm plantations, he said, people could take advantage of the company's CSR fund. Because, it was the duty of those companies to help communities around the concessions.

After answering all the questions from the village leaders the session was concluded. Dwi Kusharyono opened the next sessions and gave a last chance to the entire audience to ask questions or provide feedback.

The Head of Tapang Malaban Village, Simon Petrus spoke up. He explained that the village already had a map as a result of a participatory mapping. The results also revealed that some areas were overlapping with the third party. As a result, there was no space arrangement for dry land agriculture and wet rice fields. “The residents lived from tapping local rubber trees, farming and fishing” he said.



Beluan hill waterfall which is used by the community as a tourist location in Hulu Gurung Sub-District.



Embung, one of the soil and water conservation methods built in Tepuai, Hulu Gurung Sub-District.

In addition to the above, Simon also explained that Riam Tapang Village had 20 292 hectares of the total area, 12,000 hectares of which was area for bird's nest. Other potential, Riam Tapang had a waterfall that could be used as a source of hydropower and clean water.

Other input came from Andreas Tingkah, the Head of Perjuk Village. According to him, two years ago the government had issued rules prohibiting residents to set fire in forest and land. Whereas the majority of the people in Kapuas Hulu burned land for shifting cultivation. Another thing that posted problems for Perjuk Village was the absence of road infrastructure linking the village with other areas.

The Chief of Nanga Luan Village, Mustation welcomed the Agropolitan DSA scheme in Silat Hulu. "This is very interesting. Our desire in the future, the scheme should be socialized down to village level. So far, communication between the communities, government, and NGOs is non-existent" he said.

He also said that since the time of his ancestors the citizens of Nanga Luan remained loyal to maintain their forests. In fact, until now the forest was guarded because the residents lived from the forest. The problem, continued Mustation, the government was less concerned with the welfare of the society. Including aid that came sometimes off the targeted.

"Hopefully in the future we can all open our eyes. In our region there is still plenty of wood, forest, and water resources. The potentials have not been

managed properly. Agriculture and fishery are waiting to be developed" he added.

Answering a question in this session, Budi Prasetyo accepted the suggestion from Simon Petrus of Melaban as input. With regard to Agropolitan DSA, he asserted that the target of this scheme was sustainable economic sector. "There is a parameter or measuring devices, namely the welfare of society. Spatial, economic, institutional, and socio-cultural" he said.

In term of connectivity between public space and its natural resources, Budi said that the government continued to seek for ways to make basic infrastructure available. The effort that the Technical Team was doing marked the very beginning of the activities which would then be reviewed by a consultant from ITB.

The spatial planning was indeed a top to bottom process. So it must come from the central government first, then to the provincial, district, sub-district and village level. After that, came a detailed spatial plan.

Could the village compile its own spatial plan? "Yes, it can" he answered. Particularly for Agropolitan DSA, The government worked hand I hand with non-governmental organizations. Next year, a draft for the regional regulation should be ready.

There were still many issues that needed further study. For example, agricultural land belonging to local residents that overlapped with mining. It needed must be studied carefully. But first the village must have a spatial plan.

The discussions continued. Dwi Kusharyono still giving the participants opportunity to ask questions in the hope that all of the potentials and problems at the village level would come to the surface.

Saksirat, Village Chief of Entebi, Silat Hulu Sub-district asked about spatial plan created by the village, whether the village could change the status of an area? This question was considered too urgent so that Budi Prasetyo immediately responded by saying that the village could not change the function of an area.

Syamsul Bahri, Chief of Tani Makmur village just hoped the government would not stop at merely pursuing limitedly the Agropolitan program. Instead he suggested the government to build a processing plant.



One example of wetland agricultural utilization done by people in Tepuai, Hulu Gurung Sub-District.

“In addition to producing tubers, the village also has another product namely the jackfruits. Hereditarily the community lives from farming and gardening. But the welfare cannot be increased. My suggestion is that the government should build a plant to process cassava tubers into tapioca flour. I’m ready to set up a BUMDes for the purpose of construction and management of the processing plant” he said.

To answer the above questions, Sudirman said the program that would be executed in Agropolitan DSA was not just any program, but a program that could be guaranteed for its continuity, he continued. As for the tapioca, it surely could generate added value as long as it could be managed properly.

Another Technical Team member, Yohanna added on the mechanisms of the plant establishment. According to her, the Department of Agriculture of Kapuas Hulu had a plan to build the processing plant in the village of Sukamaju. Since the last two weeks a team had been conducting feasibility study to ascertain whether the project could be built or not.

“One of the main things if you want to build a plant is the production stability. Supply of raw materials should be continuous so that employers are willing to invest. If not, the plant could not operate” Yohanna said.

She also talked about the program designed to create new rice field initiated by the Department of Agriculture. She further alluded that sometimes people did not take advantage of good opportunities. Including not planting in the area that had been prepared.

While there was a growing trend that many farmer groups were organized simply for reasons of bringing a lot of relief support. “Now we can no

longer perfunctorily form farmer groups. There are requirements that will work systematically. Including legal umbrella. It is solely so that the programs will run on target and sustainably” she said.

The discussion session ended at 13:00 PM. The *Camat* of Hulu Gurung H Baharuddin conveyed his short message after the discussion. According to him, the discussions during the four-hour talk already gave everyone an idea as to what Agropolitan DSA was all about. He asked the village chiefs, whenever the data collection process was set in motion, they should help as much as possible.

“We are lucky to have WWF and District OPDs to accompany us, because WWF experience is incredible. Many areas have been successfully due to support given by this organization, including the honey farmers in Sentarum Lake” said Baharuddin.

He hoped that this institution could also assist residents in the southern part of the district. He hoped this could be sustained until 2034. The area of concerned was the economic aspect. Hence, the region must be developed first, then the positive effect would influence other areas in Kapuas Hulu to do likewise.

From the results of the discussion, it was clear that people disparately needed assistance to improve their welfare. Getting to know of their own potential, business insight, including selecting the appropriate commodity that matched with natural conditions and market prospects.

The community was willing to work hard but had not developed economically. Then, the Agropolitan DSA came around to offer technical assistance and other facilities. This was one of the steps toward accelerating reduction of poverty.

FORMULATE THE RESULTS OF VISITS

The amiable contact with the residents of Hulu Gurung, Silat Hulu, and Pengkadan Sub-districts in Nanga Tepuai already passed. The Technical Team entourage headed directly to Putussibau. In the capital of Kapuas Hulu District, a summary of the discussion with the local residents was analyzed.



Informal meeting between Technical Team members and Sub-District Government of Hulu Gurung.

The Kapuas Hulu Landscape Leader of WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Program, Anas Nasrullah elaborated on three important points sticking out of the results of those visits. Those three points include sustainable management of natural resources, preparation of spatial plan, and development of local commodities.

“We’ve been absorbing some inputs from village leaders that a change in mindset of the people is required in the landscape-based governance of natural resource. Increasing the capacity of the community is one important point in its implementation” said Anas.

Another member of the Technical Team, Amri Yahya responded to a village initiative to undertake participatory mapping or participatory land use planning (PLUP) independently. “This initiative is actually in line with the framework adopted in the preparation of detailed spatial plan of Agropolitan DSA,” he said.

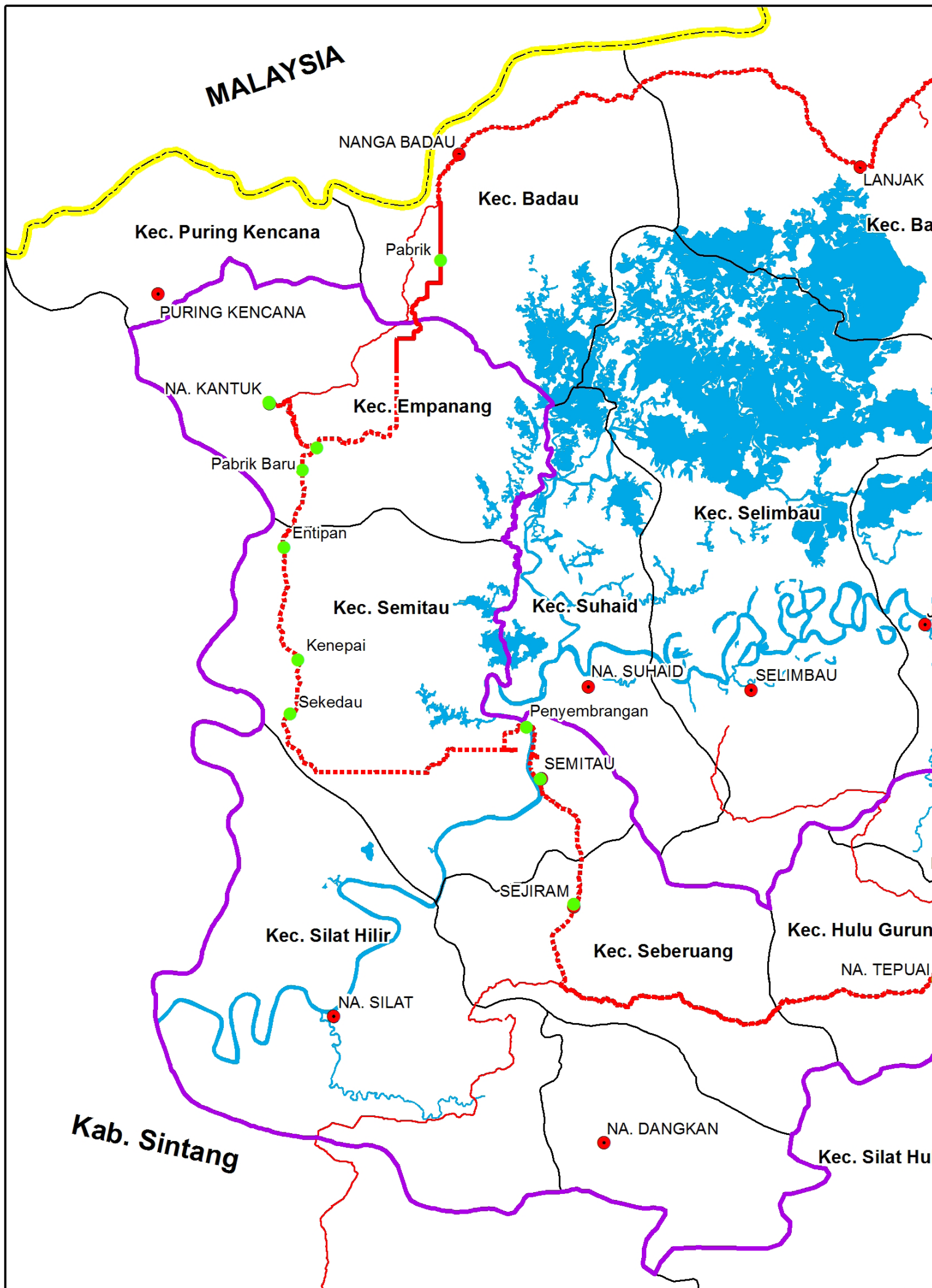
Amri also highlighted that the sustainable development scheme in Agropolitan DSA was already

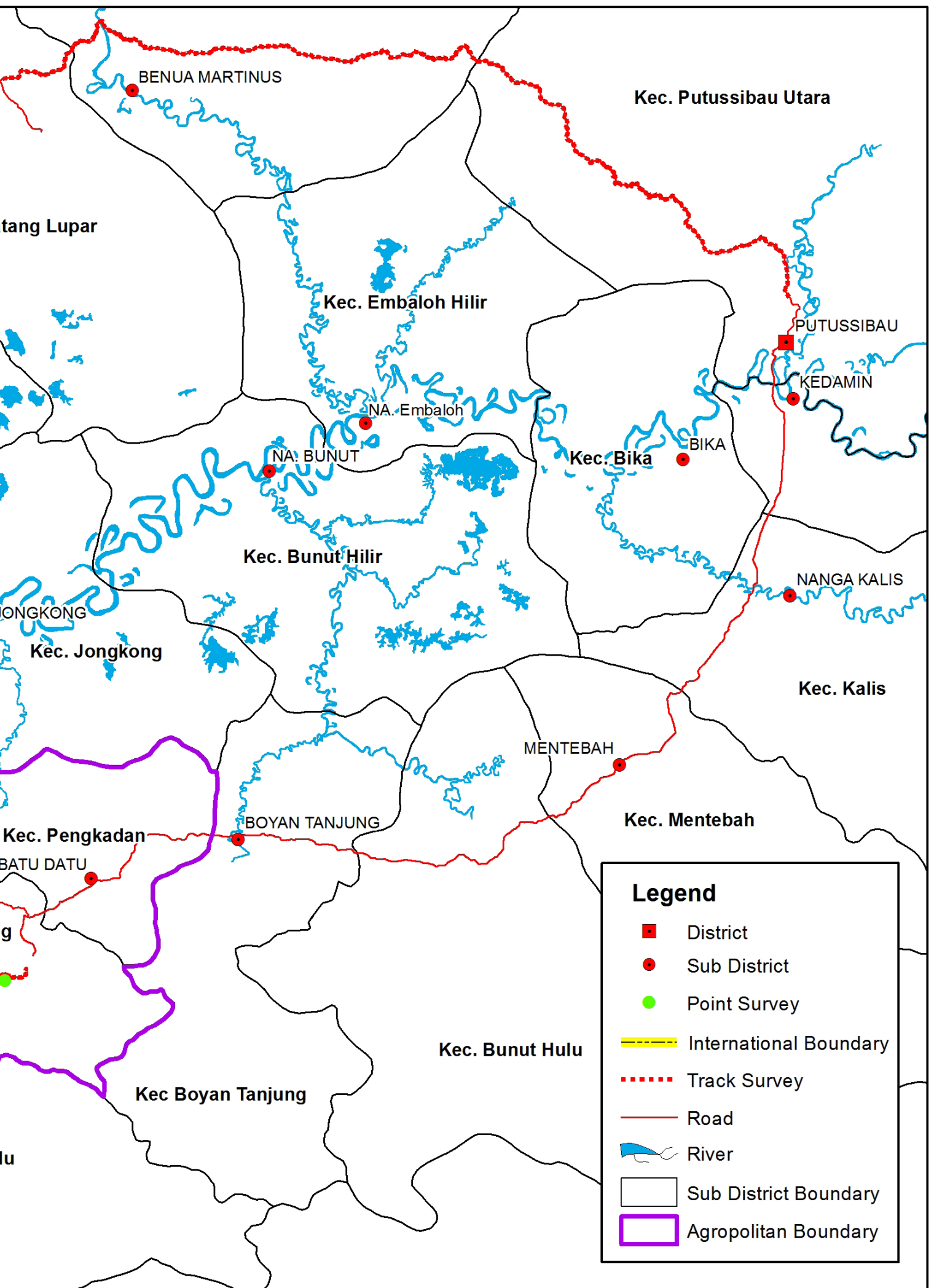
aligned to the Middle Range Development Plan for each village. Thus, there had been the common understanding and equality between Agropolitan DSA and the village documents.

Another Technical Team member, M Munawir, appreciated the village heads who already had the intention of strengthening village institutions. “The intention is a good one. Because, the institutional aspect is one of the pillars in development of sustainable economy of the Agropolitan DSA “ he explained.

Another thing emerging out of the results of the field visit was the story about villages that were situated around the oil palm concession. As a member of the Technical Team, Sudirman saw some problems faced by residents living around the concession.

Sudirman said that solution to the problems could be found in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the concessions. “CSR can be used as the entrance to bridge the interests of both parties. Both the public and the companies” he said.









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TIGHTENING THE NETWORK KNOT

Cover Photo:

Group picture of Technical Team at the District Planning Agency Office shortly before the field trip to the seven sub-districts in Kapuas Hulu was implemented.



Why we are here

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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