



Article

The Role of Forest Police in Eradicating Bird Hunting in Alas Purwo National Park

Eko Setiawan*

Faculty of Agricultural, Universitas Brawijaya Malang, Indonesia

Article Information	Abstract
Received : April 5, 2023 Revised : April 24, 2023 Accepted : June 20, 2023 Published: July 8, 2023	This article aims to answer problems related to animal hunting in the Alas Purwo National Park conservation area. An indisputable fact about the richness of biodiversity and ecosystems, but with the rise of poaching can threaten the loss of life of endemic animal species. This research is descriptive qualitative, aiming to provide a systematic and clear picture of the problem of animal hunting. Data collection methods through observation, interviews, and documentation. The source of the data came from key informants, consisting of communities around buffer villages, forestry police, perpetrators of animal thieves, Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Natural and Biological Resources and Their Ecosystems. Data analysis using interactive models, including data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the Government's efforts to protect endemic animals are considered less than optimal, even though regulations have been made regarding the prohibition of hunting and trading protected animals. So, it takes the role of the forestry police to act as the spearhead through preemptive, preventive, and repressive security operations. Forest police are at the forefront of combating unlawful acts.
Keywords	
Role of Forest Police; bird hunting; Alas Purwo National Park	
*Correspondence oke.setia@gmail.com	

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is home to 1,666 species of birds that are found from beaches, mountains, swamps, and continue to experience an increase in various types of habitats (Fikriyanti, Wulandari, Fauzi, & Rahmat, 2018). Around 848 species of endemic animals can only be found in Indonesia (Diamond, 2019). The results of investigations at the beginning of 2020 in Indonesia there were around 1818 species of birds but experienced a decrease of about 17% of the total 9,700 bird species in the world (Mulyadi & Dede, 2020). Ironically, 177 bird species are endemic and threatened with the highest extinction in the world. The endangerment of bird animals is due to habitat destruction and the threat of poaching. Birds are widely used by humans as pets, foodstuffs and meeting economic needs. Studies have shown that poaching results in declining wildlife populations.

Along with the increasing population and the high interest in the use of bird species, there is pressure on the natural habitat of birds. Due to the loss of vegetation resulting in the loss of feed sources for birds (Firdaus, Setiawan, & Rustiati, 2014). The benefits of birds for humans, both directly and indirectly, have an impact on the sustainability of bird species. The presence of birds as a counterweight to the environment in ecosystem components, has a role as a seed-breaker, pollinator, and pest predator. The population of birds in nature is declining and the area of distribution is limited. The preservation of bird animals needs to be maintained

because part of natural resources is priceless. Can live and develop naturally (Marpaung, [2015](#)). Class aves vertebrate animals with the ability to fly freely in nature (Brotowijoyo, [1990](#)).

Alas Purwo National Park is particularly vulnerable to hunting for protected animals. It becomes vulnerable because there are many loopholes to be able to enter the conservation area. So that those who become victims of natural habitat due to low supervision of various illegal exploitation activities of wildlife. The increase in poaching and wildlife trade is due to the high demand for endangered animals and the supply of high selling value (Roziaty, [2014](#)). The ambition of humans to own regardless of the population of their natural habitat certainly threatens extinction. Even though endangered animals should not be hunted or traded, to preserve animals from the threat of extinction. Extinction can cause huge losses that cannot be substantively assessed, as well as the recovery of the state is unlikely to be as it was.

Research on birds is a very important indicator of environmental changes that occur in the area (Bibby, Neil, & David, [2004](#)). The condition of natural ecosystems that continue to experience pressure, so conservation efforts are needed. Ironically, although Indonesia is known for its abundant biodiversity and ecosystem, it is accompanied by the status of birds from hunting. If allowed to drag on, the bird will lose its natural habitat. If the population continues to decline, it will certainly cause tremendous impacts, such as an uncontrollable explosion of pests. It became the beginning of the chaos of disruption of the food chain and ecosystem. The decline in the number of bird populations has a negative impact on triggering ecological problems. The high utilization of birds results in pressure on the natural habitat of birds.

The decline in animal populations due to hunting in the territorial area of Alas Purwo National Park, is increasing from year to year. Caused by ignorant human hands that are consumptive and unfriendly to the environment (Azis, [2013](#)). Humans have always been anthropocentric in exploiting natural resources resulting in environmental problems (Mujiono, [2001](#)). Environmental problems become urgent because of the insatiable demands and needs of human life. For this reason, it is necessary to participate and play an active role of the Forest Police in conducting patrols as a form of forest management. Disciplining the structure of people's lives (Kelana, [2014](#)). Conducting crime prevention efforts as an integral part (Nawawi, [2013](#)). The Forest Police have responsibility for the protection of conservation areas, related to poaching wildlife. Given duties and authorities by the center to carry out forest protection (Zain, [2017](#)). Thus, this research is important to be carried out in analyzing the findings of forest police patrols in protecting wildlife from poaching in Alas Purwo National Park.

METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative, aiming to provide a systematic and clear picture of the main problem of the study. Research as an effort to find the right knowledge (Ali, [2019](#)). Intends to provide as much detailed data as possible about human beings, the state of events to strengthen the theory (Soekanto, [2014](#)). Based on a system, systematic, consistent, within a certain framework (Suratman, [2014](#)). Using the empirical normative legal approach method using primary and secondary data derived from books, legal literature, laws and regulations, journals, criminal law books, interviews (Hasan, [2012](#)). Achieving goals by searching, formulating, and analyzing to compile reports (Narbuko, [2013](#)).

Using this empirical normative approach is basically a combination of normative legal approaches with the addition of various empirical elements (Soekanto, [2016](#)). Empirical normative research approach regarding the implementation of normative legal provisions in their action at any legal event that occurs in a society. This research is descriptive analysis, revealing laws and regulations related to legal theories in the implementation in the community

related to research objects (Zanuddin, [2019](#)). The research was conducted from August 13 to December 13, 2022, in Alas Purwo National Park.

Data collection methods through observation, interviews, and documentation. Primary data are obtained directly through interviews and observations, while secondary data are obtained through books, journals related to this research (Bungin, [2019](#)). Data sources were obtained through communities around buffer villages, forestry police, perpetrators of animal thieves, Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Natural and Biological Resources and Their Ecosystems. Data analysis using interactive models, including data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Criminal Sanctions Against Perpetrators of Animal Hunting Crimes

Alas Purwo National Park is rich in natural, biological, and non-biological resources has a very important position and role for life. One of them is various animals that have uniqueness between one animal and another. Although a law on the conservation of biological natural resources and their ecosystems has been established, there are still illegal activities against animals. Unlawful activities of animal theft, being kept, killed, traded. If there continues to be neglect, over time it will certainly experience the threat of extinction (Damanik, [2019](#)). The threat of extinction of endemic birds can be prevented if we all pay attention to the principle of conservation of protection of species (Djuwantoko, [2018](#)). Ecological balance between humans and the environment to support the achievement of a healthy quality of life (Wibowo, [2014](#)).

Based on Constitution Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and Ecosystems that the perpetrators who sell protected animals will be sentenced, "whoever for negligence violates the provisions as referred to in Article 21 Paragraphs (1) and (2) and Article 33 Paragraph (3) shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of 5 (five) years and a maximum fine of 100,000,000. Protected animals are slow-growing species with a small population. Protected animals cannot be traded or stored without permission based on P.92/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/8/2018 Concerning Protected Plant and Animal Species. One of them is endemic to the green *cucak* bird that has been hunted and traded. The population decline resulted from poaching and illegal trade which adversely affected the survival of all creatures.

The large number of cases of trade and protected wildlife in Indonesia requires special attention and handling. Law enforcement of the protection of endangered animals is essentially an effort to make the public aware of the importance of protection and Sustainable use, especially protected wildlife. The perpetrators of crimes must be tried as a form of criminal responsibility for the unlawful acts they committed, to cause a deterrent effect, warn others and of course protect protected animals.

The government's efforts in protecting endangered animals are considered less than optimal, even though regulations have been made regarding the prohibition of trading protected animals as stated in Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and their Ecosystems. This is evidenced in the decision of the Takengon District Court Number 135/Pid.B/LH/2020/PN Tkn. Where the perpetrator of a criminal act of trading protected animals is given a light sentence that is far from what has been stipulated in Article 21 Paragraph (2) letter b and d Jo. Article 40 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and Their Ecosystems (Prodjodikoro, [2013](#)).

The verdict provides a sentence for the Defendant to only be sentenced to imprisonment for 1 (one) year 3 (three) months and a fine of Rp50,000,000 (fifty million rupiah). Meanwhile,

in Article 40 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and their Ecosystems, perpetrators who violate Article 21 Paragraph (2) letter b and d of Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and their Ecosystems are subject to a maximum imprisonment of 5 (five) years and a maximum fine of Rp100,000,000 (one hundred million rupiah). However, in his ruling, the judge gave the sentence far from expectations. In fact, the elements of biological natural resources and their ecosystems are basically interdependent with each other and affect each other so that the destruction and extinction of one of the elements will result in disruption of the ecosystem. This shows the inconsistency between animal protection regulations and the application of existing laws. Light sentences are clearly guilty and have no deterrent effect on criminals who do not support government programs to protect endangered species, so poor law enforcement remains the trafficking of protected animals believed to be the reason for exploitation.

In Law Number 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and their Ecosystems, criminal acts or prohibited acts are formulated in articles, namely in articles 19, 21, and 33. The description of these articles, all of which discusses criminal acts related to animal protection crimes are directly regulated in Article 21 Paragraph (2), where in this article it states that there are 5 (five) forms of acts which can be categorized as a criminal act of animal protection, including:

- 1) Capture, injure, kill, store, possess, maintain, transport, and trade protected animals alive.
- 2) Storing, possessing, maintaining, transporting, and trading protected animals in a dead state.
- 3) Removing protected animals from one place in Indonesia to another place inside or outside Indonesia.
- 4) Trade, store, or possess the skin, body, or other parts of protected animals.

With the cumulative formulation as above, it is sometimes difficult to ensnare a crime that is only committed or fulfills only one or two actions, not the whole action. In addition, the same penalties are applied to both the perpetrator in the field and the actor who told him to, making it sometimes difficult to ensnare the "bookie" of poaching and the illegal wildlife trade is protected. Criminal penalties are imposed accompanied by sanctions in the form of fines which very little makes the perpetrators have not had a deterrent effect as a form of repentance. The perpetrators of animal theft crimes should be punished even more severely because the effects made by the perpetrators can endanger the sustainability of the ecosystem.

The Role of the Forestry Police in Eradicating Animal Theft Crimes

Since long ago humans hunted animals only for the sake of consumption, but now hunting with the aim of taking certain parts of the animals to be used as handicrafts, cosmetics, medicines. Over-hunting will result in the extinction of certain species, which will certainly have a chain effect on the rest of the ecosystem. The loss of certain species results in the destruction of the food chain and leads to the destruction of the ecosystem of an area (Explotasia, [2019](#)). One of the disadvantages of the extinction of endemic bird species will lose pride in a certain feature that only exists in Indonesia. Birds are part of the natural wealth playing a role in the chain of ecosystems with their environment.

Indonesia is rich in biodiversity; it is estimated that as many as 300,000 species of wildlife or about 17% of animals spread throughout the world are contained within the territory of the Indonesian state. Although Indonesia is only 1.3% of the world's land area, it still ranks

first in terms of the wealth of 515 mammals and is home to more than 1,539 species of birds, as many as 45% of the world's fish, living in Indonesia. The existence of these endemic animals is very important for nature because if they experience extinction, of course their lives will come from the world. Despite its abundant wealth, Indonesia is also known as a country that has a long list of endangered wildlife. This condition is exacerbated by the high level of poaching and wild trade due to the high market demand and lucrative supply of endemic category animals.

The illegal trade in wildlife promises huge profits with little real risk due to weak law enforcement. According to an informant, the STM Forestry Police (48 years old) confirmed that they had succeeded in arresting two suspects TW (43 years old) and ST (40 years old) bird theft. Both were arrested while police were patrolling an area prone to bird catching. The two perpetrators were people who lived around the forest, caught catching birds using glue. Police secured evidence from the two perpetrators in the form of a 13-tailed green *cucak* and a glue device to catch birds. For information, Alas Purwo National Park is indeed a habitat for various types of birds and has a relatively high price.

Furthermore, the head of BTNAP KI (59 years old), confirmed that he had arrested two bird hunters WT (35 years old) and SM (43 years old) in the conservation area. According to the perpetrator carried out the hunt for birds using sap as a lure. Forced to commit theft due to economic difficulties and for the needs of the family. From the results of the hunt, the perpetrator gets a large profit. Hunters had to willingly spend the night in the forest for a few days to get a catch. Perpetrators face a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The Head of Management of TNAP, said that his staff yesterday had succeeded in securing three suspected bird thieves in the conservation areas of SHU (37 years old), ME (26 years old), SP (30 years old). The three residents were arrested for being caught hunting birds, with evidence of ten birds, nets, cellphones, rifles, music players containing recordings of chirps to lure other birds. The three residents were arrested by forest police after patrolling through the forest, currently the suspect is under intensive investigation for follow-up of his case at Alas Purwo National Park Hall. The problem of animal theft above requires the role of the forestry police who act as the spearhead through security operations. Forest police are at the forefront of combating unlawful acts.

Forest police need to make preemptive, preventive, and repressive security efforts. Preemptive security is carried out to maintain the existence of forest resources, through intensive communication media in the form of guidance to communities around the area aimed at providing an understanding of the benefits and functions of forests for life. As well as to increase public legal awareness so as not to be involved in crimes in the forestry sector.

Preventive security is surveillance and prevention are carried out through early preventive measures in cutting the chain of crimes in the forestry sector, including through guarding, patrolling. Preventing the onset of evil is much better than educating criminals to the right line. Because it is not only in terms of cost, because this business is easier to get satisfactory results in achieving goals (Sumaryo, [2015](#)).

Repressive security is in the form of legal enforcement against perpetrators, in the form of actions from the community or cooperation with the police and related agencies in enforcing the rule of law in resolving cases through investigations to maintain the existence of forest resources. Security activities, both functional and combined in the context of combating criminals in the field of forestry, can be carried out through intelligence, repressive, rehabilitation, special, welfare operations. This activity is seen as prevention in the future, carried out with rehabilitation techniques (Ali, [2010](#)).

CONCLUSION

The large number of cases of trade and protected wildlife in Indonesia requires special attention and handling. The perpetrators of crimes must be tried as a form of criminal responsibility for the unlawful acts they committed, to cause a deterrent effect, warn others and of course protect protected animals. The government's efforts to protect endangered animals are considered less than optimal, even though regulations have been made regarding the prohibition of trading protected animals. The imposition of criminal penalties accompanied by sanctions in the form of very small fines makes the perpetrators have not had a deterrent effect as a form of repentance. The perpetrators of animal theft crimes should be punished even more severely because the effects made by the perpetrators can endanger the sustainability of the ecosystem. The forest police are at the forefront of the fight against unlawful acts. Forest police need to carry out preemptive, preventive, and repressive security operations to maintain the existence of forest resources.

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