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SOME ASPECTS OF WILDLIFE UTILISATION IN SARAWAK**M.T. Abdullah****ABSTRACT**

Wildlife use is culturally and traditionally important among the communities in Borneo. In order to understand the current status of wildlife in Borneo, brief observations were conducted in 1995 to investigate the occurrence of wildlife utilisation in local markets in Sarawak. The wildlife involved in the trade were frogs, soft-shelled turtles, snakes, lizards, birds, monkeys, barking deer, mouse deer, sambar deer and wild pigs.

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by

M.T. Abdullah

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Wildlife use is culturally and traditionally important among the communities in Borneo. In order to understand the current status of wildlife in Borneo, brief observations were conducted in 1995 to investigate the occurrence of wildlife utilisation in local markets in Sarawak. The wildlife involved in the trade were frogs, soft-shelled turtles, snakes, lizards, birds, monkeys, barking deer, mouse deer, sambar deer and wild pigs.

INTRODUCTION

Wildlife hunting is culturally and traditionally an important activity since the prehistoric beginning of a cave man community in Borneo. During prehistory times, about 40,000 to 10,000 years ago, the Borneo Man civilisation presumably depended on meat from hunting and other food gathered (Medway 1979). Insectivores, chiropterans, dermopterans, primates, rodents, carnivores, perissodactyls and artiodactyls were among the 55 wildlife species and some other domesticated animals identified among the archaeological remains from Niah. In recent years, consumptive wildlife and their management implications are reported to occur throughout Borneo (Brunei, Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak) by Abdullah (1995a, 1995b), Aken and Kavanagh (1982), Bennett (1988, 1991), Caldecott (1986), Eaton and Susilawatiniah (1992), Fujita and Tuttle (1991), Kedit (1982), Pfeffer and Caldecott (1986), Ngui (1991), Payne *et al* (1985) and Ritchie (1992a, 1992b, 1994). Wildlife subsistence by the local community in Brunei was reported by Eaton and Susilawatiniah (1992).

The surveys by Caldecott (1986), Chin (1985) and Kedit (1982) examined hunting methods, species taken and consumption by long house communities in Sarawak. Pfeffer and Caldecott (1986) reported on the hunting and consumption of wild pigs in Kalimantan as well as Sarawak. Other researchers reported on the management implications of hunting on the long-term conservation of certain species, loss of genetic diversity, the urgent